

The German Tribune

Hamburg, 21 August 1988
Twenty-seventh year - No. 1336 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

C 20725 C
ISSN 0016-8858
DEPOSE A BRX X

The looming promise of an era of world peace

DIE ZEIT

There is a time for all things, as the Old Testament prophet has it, one for destruction and one for construction.

Could it be, in a century so well endowed with catastrophes, that its final decade might mark an end to destruction and the beginning of an era of peaceful construction?

We can certainly look back on death and destruction aplenty, including two World Wars, with 10 million dead in the First and 55 million in the Second.

There was the shock and horror of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, not to mention Hitler and Stalin and the unbelievable crimes they committed.

And when the death and suffering were over some felt mankind might have learnt its lesson.

Might it not have realised that there is room for all in the world and that no-one wins a war, not even the victors? It might have, but it hadn't. Regional conflicts began, graduating into full-scale war.

Iraq and Iran have been at war for eight years, using bombs, poison gas and missiles, not to mention the thousands of 14-year-olds sent out into the artillery fire.

One million dead, cities laid waste and economies ruined: these have been the results. The story is much the same in Vietnamese-occupied Cambodia, where Pol Pot, a barbarous criminal clearly on a par with Hitler and Stalin, seized power and nearly annihilated his entire people.

He hated the cities and drove people into the countryside and inhospitable areas where they starved and died in their thousands.

Of the eight million Cambodians 1.5 million died during the Khmer Rouge regime. The Vietnamese who sent Pol Pot packing are there to this day, oppressors in an occupied country.

The regime of Col Mengistu Mariam in Ethiopia is no less horrific. He is busy annihilating the insubordinate people of Eritrea.

Last but not least, war has been waged in Angola for 14 years, supplied with arms and ammunition by East and West.

A rich country has been laid waste, its people are paupers, its cities reduced to rack and ruin. Nowhere in the world are there so many crippled children as in Angola.

Suddenly, surprisingly, we learn from New York that UN secretary-general Perez de Cuellar has succeeded in persuading Iraq and Iran, previously at odds and insisting on demands the other side could not possibly meet, to agree to an armistice.

Peace, from having seemed inconceivable, is suddenly a reality. An armistice may be a far cry from peace, but it is still the first, crucial — and difficult — step.

Peace seems a distinct possibility in Angola too. There the situation had seemed even more hopeless, with two difficult problems inextricably intertwined.

The South Africans had previously said they were only prepared to fulfill UN Security Council Resolution 435 and grant Namibia independence if the Cubans first left neighbouring Angola.

The Angolan government for its part insisted on South African forces being withdrawn first. The South African defence forces are backing the Angolan government's arch-enemy, Unita leader Jonas Savimbi.

In Geneva Chester A. Crocker of the US State Department has succeeded in persuading Angola, Cuba and South Africa to agree to an immediate ceasefire. South Africa has agreed to start leaving Namibia on 1 November, but much may happen in the meantime. Agreement has yet to be reached on a time schedule for the Cuban withdrawal from Angola, and two belligerents well able to breach the armistice and jeopardise the peace settlement are not parties to the Geneva agreement. They are Unita, which controls roughly 40 per cent of Angolan territory, and Swapo, which runs its struggle for Namibian independence from neighbouring Angola.

Vietnam and Ethiopia are both being pressed by Moscow to end their occupation and warfare. Talks are being held on the future of Cambodia, while initial indications fuel hopes that the civil war in Ethiopia might tail off.

Is full-scale peace about to break out as tension between Washington and Moscow is relaxed?

Was it the great powers who carried their rivalry to all parts of the world by supplying arms and making regional conflicts an integral part of the East-West clash?

Are they now telling their respective clients (Cuba and Swapo, Vietnam and Ethiopia in Moscow's case, South Africa and Savimbi in Washington's) to sue for peace along the lines of: "Quit fighting or else we'll stop supporting you."?

Or are eras of destruction and construction predestined by a "universal spirit" of history? This is the old question whether history is made by men or certain stages in history produce great men.

The 20th century would unquestionably have taken a different course if Hitler had been killed in the First World War.

We can already say that what is happening now and may mark the beginning of a new era would not have been possible without power changing hands in the Kremlin.

Yet was Tolstoy right in saying every leader is a slave of history?

Marion Gräfin Dönhoff
(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 12 August 1988)

Remembering a death at the Wall

A boy shot trying to escape over the Berlin Wall in 1962 is remembered. East Berlin built the Wall in 1961. (Photo: AP)

IN THIS ISSUE

Optimism over progress at Vienna talks

Bonn is confident the Vienna CSCE review conference stands a fair chance of ending this autumn with a "very good" final document.

"Significant headway" is said to have been made at the Helsinki review conference of 35 Western, East Bloc, neutral and non-aligned states on cooperation and detente in Europe.

Western participants are agreed that when the talks are resumed at the end of August the final deliberations can begin.

The view held at the Bonn Foreign Office is that Rumania can be prevailed on to abandon its opposition to many passages agreed on for the final document as proposed.

It is simply inconceivable, Ministry officials say, for the CSCE conference to decouple from favourable developments in East-West relations.

Bonn officials are particularly gratified by the state of negotiations on individual contacts and human rights (Basket Three).

Interim agreement has been reached on, for instance, deadlines for processing applications for reuniting families and on easements in arrangements for East-West travel.

All adult East Germans are not yet allowed to visit the West, but East Berlin is processing applications more liberally. This has improved the situation.

Agreement has virtually been reached on arrangements in pressing family circumstances and on the principle that entire families are to be allowed to visit the West (rather than individual members staying behind as "hostages"). Progress is said to have been made on two military (Basket One) issues tabled for discussion.

There will be a further round of consultations by all 35 CSCE countries on confidence- and security-building measures — a continuation of the Stockholm conference.

There will also be a conference on conventional arms control in Europe, to be attended by 23 member states of Nato and the Warsaw Pact.

The talks on environmental protection (Basket Two: economic and ecological cooperation) do not yet seem to have made comparable headway.

The new head of Bonn's delegation at the CSCE conference is Detlev Graf zu Rantzau, previously head of Bonn's Nato mission in Brussels.

He has taken over from Ambassador Eickhoff, who has been transferred to Ankara.

Claus Wettermann
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 12 August 1988)

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Jockeying for position in the debate over the shape of the Europe to come

What is to become of Europe? The question was the centre of the controversial discussion back in the 1960s between the Gaullists and the supranationalists; between the supporters of a "Europe of fatherlands" and the vanguard of the "United States of (Western) Europe".

For many years the dispute over which political form Europe should take was covered by a thick layer of pragmatic politics. Now it has re-emerged out from under it.

This time not only Europeans in the West are involved but also their neighbours in Eastern Europe.

Mikhail Gorbachov talks about a "common European house". He has several underlying motives.

He not only wants to enable his backward country to catch up with western modernity, but also wants to gain influence on the structuring of Europe's future.

During their last encounter the Soviet leader asked Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher whether the Western European common market and even greater military coordination between the countries of Western Europe are compatible with the neighbourliness such a common house would mean.

Charles de Gaulle, who developed the slogan "Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals", would have disliked a number of aspects of this vision.

De Gaulle wanted to overcome the division of Europe, reduce the "double hegemony" of the two superpowers, and at the same time keep Germany in check. His successors in Paris today pursue different goals.

Their vision is one of a "Western European common house". This, they feel, is the only way of safeguarding Europe's stability and the only way of containing the growing political power of the West Germans.

It was the British Prime Minister of all people who donned the Gaullist cloak. Margaret Thatcher's vision, however, lacks de Gaulle's pan-European features.

She would prefer to see a "common Atlantic house", in which the British and Americans foster a flourishing and enduring relationship.

Only her idea of Western Europe could be labelled Gaullist. She rejects any move towards a political union which seeks to merge the existing nation-states into a political whole.

The Federal Republic of Germany is still not certain about the role is should play.

Helmut Kohl is perhaps the last convinced (Western) European among the leading figures of West German politics; the "European union" is the only real vision of a Chancellor who is otherwise not exactly a person with great political imagination.

Kohl, however, is aware of the lethargy of his fellow Germans towards Europe and adapts accordingly.

The common internal market of the European Community is primarily hailed as a closer economic — not political — dovetailing of Western Europe. It is hoped that the move will provide stimuli to economic growth, create new jobs and strengthen Western Europe's competitive strength.

Foreign Minister Genscher is known



to want greater western integration. However, as he explained in his speech in Potsdam at the beginning of June, the "most far-reaching conceivable link between countries is *the link between values*."

At the same time he has repeatedly emphasised that Europe means the whole of Europe.

Sometimes it even seems as if Genscher cannot decide which is more important, the Helsinki final accords or the Treaty of Rome.

He tries to overcome the clash of priorities by denying its existence.

In Genscher's opinion, western integration is just one means of making headway in "the whole of Europe."

In reply to Gorbachov's question Genscher emphasised that the anchorage of the Federal Republic in the West represented the prerequisite for cooperation with the Soviet Union and that Bonn would take an active role in the European Community in shaping East-West relations.

All these positions are not fixed. The statesmen and stateswomen of Europe are merely giving signals and retaining alternatives.

But how long can the signposts keep pointing in different directions? The facts in Western Europe speak for themselves.

The European Community member states are already no longer independent and sovereign; if, as agreed, the single European market is created by the end of 1992 this will lead to a far-reaching curtailment of national decision-making powers.

Last month, the President of the European Commission, Jacques Delors, pointed out the implications.

In 10 years, 80 per cent of all laws relating to economic activity and possibly of all fiscal and policy regulations would no longer be decided in a national but in a (Western) European decision-making framework.

"I do not personally believe that we can take all the decisions needed by 1995 unless we make at least some move towards a (Western) European government by that time," Delors emphasised. Maybe he's being a little too technocratic.

Margaret Thatcher is not alone in her rejection of the relinquishment of national decision-making powers. Influential politicians and (often even more influential) bureaucracies in other countries feel the same way, but prefer Mrs Thatcher to do the undiplomatic complaining.

However, the Western European train is moving in the direction indicated by Delors. The tracks towards the internal market and thus towards even closer economic ramifications are being laid.

Although the train can be slowed down it can only be stopped at the expense of political and economic stagnation.

The concern of the Russians and the misgivings of the Americans that the Western Europeans might be sealing themselves off cannot simply be dismissed.

The setting up of the single market in 1992 is bound to have political implications. There will be a growing interlinkage of the internal, foreign and security policies of Western European countries.

Whereas Gorbachov is still working on the design draft for the construction of the common house the Western Europeans are already celebrating the topping-out ceremony at their own building site.

Some of the contradictions of West German politics are now surfacing more clearly.

Egon Bahr (SPD) predicts that the Federal Republic of Germany will be irrevocably tied to the West once the common internal market has been established.

He insists that the time has come to put an end to the "hypocrisy" of reunification.

This is a direct attack on the CDU which is officially committed to achieving reunification in some way within an all-European framework.

Yet it also annoys those SPD supporters who would like to see a more pronounced opening to the East rather than a stronger link with the West.

The attempt to make these contradictions more palatable by simply ignoring them, however, is being increasingly impaired by the facts of the European Community.

If Bonn were to try to retard greater integration in the West just for the sake of keeping open the possibilities of stronger ties with the East this would cause serious political problems.

Such a policy would jeopardise the future of Western Europe rather than improve the situation of Europe as a whole.

Mistrust would inevitably grow in the West if Germany started drifting towards the East.

What is more, a Federal Republic of Germany standing alone could only count on an opportunistic response in the Soviet Union, not on respect.

Once again the new discussion about Europe will also again become a discussion about the Germans. At the moment the discussion is marked by restraint.

However, once it is really underway it would be better for the West Germans to state their position more clearly.

Western Europe will still have a responsibility for Europe as a whole even after the further strengthening of the Western European framework.

Christoph Bertram

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 12 August 1988)

Clouds of protectionism loom in not-so-distant distance

The US government has apparently told itself that attack is the best means of defence and attacked the planned European Community internal market.

It claims that its creation will lead to greater European protectionism and to the unfair treatment of American imports.

The complaints about the misconduct of the Europeans are intended to distract attention from the USA's own sins against the spirit of free world trade.

The US Senate has passed the new protectionist trade bill which gives the government a free hand to erect trade barriers at short notice and protect the American economy against foreign competition.

The response to this move by the Confederation of German Industry and the Standing Conference of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry has been one of pointed composure.

These trade associations apparently feel that appeasement is the best approach.

After all, German industry would be one of the major losers if the trade conflict which has been smouldering for some time were to get any worse.

The new US trade bill does involve a

number of risks for Europeans. Both Bonn and Brussels are quite rightly concerned about the repercussions of the new regulations on international trade.

The experiences of the Europeans during the trade conflicts which have repeatedly flared up during recent years indicate that Americans will have no qualms about actually applying this protectionist instrument.

Whether in the field of European steel or tube exports to the USA, American maize and wheat for Portugal or Italian spaghetti the Americans often took a sledgehammer to crack a nut even without the new legal regulations.

The new trade bill virtually allows the US trade envoy to revert to unilateral measures to back US farm produce exporters. This has put the USA in an even better position to wage a trade war.

A tougher lines does seem likely, particularly in the dispute over the European Airbus. The trade bill gives Washington a greater threat potential with which to put pressure on the Europeans.

The relaxed situation on the world agricultural products market as a result of poor harvests cannot disguise the fact that the new trade bill now allows the USA to bring up the big guns against the Europeans if the silos overflow during the coming years due to better harvests.

Not only pessimists, therefore, feel that the passing of the trade bill is an early warning for the dark clouds and storms which will cast their shadows over transatlantic relations.

Furthermore, the tougher trade poli-

Continued on page 6

The German Tribune
Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH, 3-4 Hartwicusstrasse, D-2000 Hamburg 76, Tel.: 22 85 1, Telex: 02-14733.
Editor-in-chief: Otto Heinz. Editor: Alexander Anthony. English language sub-editor: Simon Burnett. — Distribution manager: Georgine Picone.
Published weekly with the exception of the second week in January, the second week in April, the third week in September and the third week in November.
Advertising rates list No. 16
Annual subscription DM 45
Printed by CW Niemeyer-Druck, Hameln
Distributed in the USA by: MASS MAILINGS, Inc., West 24th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011.
Postmaster: send change of address to The German Tribune % MASS MAILINGS.
Articles in THE GERMAN TRIBUNE are translated from the original text and published by agreement with leading newspapers in the Federal Republic of Germany.
In all correspondence please quote your subscription number which appears on the wrapper, between asterisks, above your address.

■ HOME AFFAIRS

Strauss slip up lets Kohl hit out of rough

CSU leader Franz Josef Strauss's failure to inveigle the Bonn coalition into endorsing tax exemption on aviation fuel for private pilots (Strauss himself happens to be one) has sidelined one of Chancellor Kohl's most annoying coalition mischief-makers.

If former Economic Affairs Minister Otto Lambsdorff were now to succeed Martin Bangemann as FDP leader (Bangemann is going to become a member of the European Commission in Brussels), the Chancellor feels, there should be no difficulty in winning the 1990 general election.

One Bonn politician who has accomplished the uncommon feat of staying on good terms with both Herr Strauss and Herr Kohl feels the clouds on the Chancellor's political horizon have a silver lining.

Despite the coalition's poor poll shape, with only 40-per-cent support for the CDU/CSU at the beginning of July, he is convinced the Chancellor is, in golfing terms, out of the rough.

He bases this optimism, oddly enough, on one of the worst mishaps that has befallen the coalition for months: the aviation fuel tax fiasco.

He feels the CSU leader showed so little political instinct and was so out of touch with his rank and file supporters that CSU state assemblymen were up in arms against him in Munich, bruising his ego to an unprecedented extent.

That sidelines one of Helmut Kohl's most embittered adversaries in his own camp. Herr Strauss has always been at odds with Chancellor Kohl and constantly sent members of his CSU in the Bundestag to nip at the Chancellor's heels.

He seems to have imagined he would have done a better job as Chancellor. He can set this idea aside now he and the CSU, tired of the constant back-biting in Bonn, must set their sights on retaining their absolute majority in the 1990 state assembly elections.

Herr Strauss has no intention of going down in Bavarian party-political history as the man who frittered away the CSU's power.

Now his Bavarian adversary has sidelined himself the Chancellor is left only with the problem of Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. Little is left of his erstwhile friendship with the man who is, in all but name, the FDP leader.

The break came in 1985 when Herr Genscher planned to join forces with the CSU and stage a coalition uprising against the Chancellor's CDU.

Herr Kohl promptly got wind of the plan and was particularly upset because he had staunchly defended Herr Genscher, who was under constant attack from Munich, ever since the present Bonn coalition was formed in October 1982.

Herr Genscher took a dim view of the Chancellor's habit of periodically pulling a fast one over his fellow-members of the coalition cast. In a word, they have since been on strictly detached and businesslike terms.

That makes it all the more important who succeeds Economic Affairs Minister Martin Bangemann as FDP leader. Count Lambsdorff would definitely be preferable from the viewpoint of Chancellor Kohl and the coalition.

If Irmgard Adam-Schwaetzer makes the running there is sure to be further friction within the coalition. Frau Adam-Schwaetzer, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, may not advocate left-wing policies but her supporters are undeniably less than enthusiastic about the present coalition.

Count Lambsdorff has criticised them for seeing the present coalition as a stopgap arrangement prior to the coalition they would really prefer.

Hildegard Hamm-Brücher, who approves of their attitude, says they would prefer to fight the 1990 general election campaign not committed to form a coalition with either the Christian or the Social Democrats.

Herr Genscher as the Liberals' grand old man is evidently keeping his options open for the time being, Count Lambsdorff critically comments.

It is doing Herr Genscher no injustice to say that he would prefer Frau Adam-Schwaetzer as FDP leader.

The result is uncertain. Frau Adam-Schwaetzer has age and sex in her favour but has made some mistakes.

She laid claim to a Cabinet portfolio in Bonn, which upset the FDP applecart, indirectly calling into question FDP general secretary Helmut Haussmann's claim to succeed Herr Bangemann as Economic Affairs Minister.

Then she sought to use the defence estimates for party-political acrobatics.

Count Lambsdorff expects to come under renewed fire for having been found guilty in the party fund-raising affairbut he feels he is well equipped to repulse attacks.

Commentators who claim to have the Foreign Minister's ear report that Herr Genscher feels he may have to rush once more into the breach.

Herr Kohl is taking it easy. He sees no signs of genuine opponents within the CDU. Baden-Württemberg Premier Lothar Späth, often named as a rival, is given to posing as a Swabian philosopher against a background of bookshelves, as though he wanted to hint that the Chancellor was low on intellect but he knows his regional limitations.

Premier Walter Wallmann of Hesse has no desire to return to Bonn from Wiesbaden either.

The Chancellor may go in for a minor reshuffle this autumn. The CDU/CSU parliamentary party is unhappy with its



hard-hit leader, Alfred Dregger, and Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg may also have to go.

As the experienced party politician he is, Herr Kohl has no fears of a revolt in the CDU ranks, let alone one by CDU general secretary Heiner Geissler.

And, as he puts it: "As I know no-one who wants to lose, we will stand a good chance of jointly winning the 1990 general election."

The Chancellor has no fear of the SPD either. It made a mistake in foreign policy, the sector where it and the FDP mostly agree. It has further widened the gap between itself and the FDP.

Egon Bahr, of the SPD presidium called for the signing of two peace treaties, with Bonn and East Berlin. That is gall and brimstone to Genscher.

He comes from Halle in East Germany, and not even his harshest critics will deny that his all-German views are unblemished.

Friedrich Thelen

(Wirtschaftswoche, Düsseldorf, 5 August 1988)

A mixed half-term report for a CDU Land Premier

Only a few months ago, a Hanover-based news service observed that when Lower Saxon Premier Ernst Albrecht was no longer in power, many would regret it; yet as long as he stayed in office, just as many would rather see him go.

This was written when it seemed that Herr Albrecht was tired and ready to quit after 12 years in office.

He soon ended this speculation by presenting a plan to reallocate the cost of social security payments that for a while even earned him SPD applause.

When this plan came a cropper he made sure of getting DM700m in structural grants for Lower Saxony, plus more than had been expected in the annual round of revenue-sharing talks between the Federal and *Land* governments. Herr Albrecht was suddenly back in the limelight as a *Land* Premier who had no qualms about taking the CDU in Bonn to task when the welfare of his home state was at issue. Yet he preferred not to commit himself for a while on whether he plans to stand for re-election in 1990. From his Austrian holiday resort he has now written to Jurgen Gansäuer, CDU leader in his Hanover constituency, to say he is willing to stand when the party nominates its candidate for the state assembly seat on 18 February 1989.



Feeling the hot breath of the SPD . . . CDU Lower Saxon Premier Ernst Albrecht (left) and Interior Minister Wilfried Hasselmann. (Photo: Sven Simon)

If Herr Albrecht is prepared to stand as direct candidate for the CDU in his constituency, the inference must surely be that he plans to run as CDU leader and candidate for the Premiership.

Christian Democrats in Lower Saxony can breathe a sigh of relief. For the time being there is no prospect of an alternative candidate.

That isn't to say that names haven't been mentioned. There is, for instance, Bonn Health Minister Rita Süssmuth (but she has no real power base in the Lower Saxon CDU) or the hard-working and efficient CDU leader in the state assembly, Josef Stock, 50.

But both are Catholic, and that could prove difficult because the Lower Saxon CDU is largely Protestant.

There are difficulties enough as it is, with regional differences between Oldenburg, Brunswick and Hanover often hard to reconcile.

The Hanover CDU recently hit headlines by refusing to nominate Finance Minister Birgit Breuel as its constituency candidate. It wanted a "local man."

Frau Breuel may come from Hamburg but she is one of the most successful members of Herr Albrecht's Cabinet. This parish-pump outlook was harshly criticised from higher up in the CDU and Frau Breuel has since been assured of nomination.

This is indeed small beer when the 1990 assembly elections will mean so much. Lower Saxony is the last *Land* in the north of the Federal Republic that is still ruled by a Bonn-style CDU-FDP coalition.

Premier Albrecht says he is happy with his government's record at the half-way mark in the life of the present assembly. His coalition has a majority of one yet has not lost a single important vote.

So the signs are that the Christian and Free Democrats are getting on well in the coalition committee and in their respective parliamentary parties in Hanover.

Yet the *Land* government is burdened more heavily than it is prepared to admit with affairs of one kind and another. Interior Minister Wilfried Hasselmann has a trio of parliamentary enquiries at his heels.

The casino affair, the police scandal and affairs in connection with the *Verfassungsschutz*, or domestic intelligence agency, are signs of wear and tear after long years in office.

The appointment of Arts Minister Knies, hired by Herr Albrecht a year ago without consulting his parliamentary party, has proved a mistake, causing unrest among parents, teachers and the teachers' union.

It is hard to say whether Herr Hasselmann, Lower Saxon CDU leader for 20 years, will survive the casino affair. He is near 64, Herr Albrecht is 58, and the Lower Saxon CDU is badly in need of new (and younger) blood.

The Opposition SPD, led by Gerhard Schröder, 44, has made the change, and opinion polls show voters are keen to make the change too, with the SPD well ahead of the CDU in Lower Saxony.

But age is not the most pressing problem the CDU faces in Lower Saxony. If Herr Albrecht were to serve another full term he would by 1994 have been Premier for 18 years.

The problem is in Bonn. The more clumsily the Federal government handles home affairs, the harder the CDU will find the going in Lower Saxony.

The outlook is growing gloomier for Herr Albrecht and the CDU. As they know only too well, Herr Schröder and the SPD are only one seat short of power.

Ivo Frenzel

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 30 July 1988)

■ THE LAW

Hijacker's admission changes subtleties in Frankfurt trial

Now that Lebanese hijacker Mohamed Ali Hamadi, on trial in Frankfurt, has admitted he was one of the hijackers of an American airliner in Beirut in June 1985, observers in Bonn feel there is a strong possibility he might be exchanged for Rudolf Cordes, the Hoechst chemicals company representative kidnapped in the Lebanese capital in January 1987. The German government has always made it clear that, for legal reasons, it was neither willing nor able to do a deal with Cordes' kidnappers. The rule of law and the independence of the courts must be maintained at all costs. A pardon for Hamadi might be considered, but only after he had been tried and sentenced. An exchange is now seen as a likelier prospect.

No-one imagines Mohamed Ali Hamadi was motivated by remorse or by the love of truth to admit to having been one of the hijackers.

The evidence against him was so overwhelming that he felt he might as well own up, although he denies having had anything to do with the murder of one of the passengers, US Navy diver Robert Stethem.

He says he will no longer have anything to do with terrorism. He seems to *have made his partial confession in* a bid to make the judge more lenient.

His move promptly triggered speculation that the trial might be cut short to secure the release of Hoechst manager Rudolf Cordes, who is being held hostage in Beirut.

But the signal from the Frankfurt courtroom is too faint, especially as Hamadi refuses to say who his fellow-hijackers and their principals were. They are Cordes' kidnappers.

Hamadi outlined to his patient Frankfurt judges the motives behind the hijacking. Its aim was to strike a blow at the United States as Israel's protecting power and accomplice.

At that time, he told the court, Israel was holding and torturing hundreds of Arabs in custody. A deal was struck. In exchange for the passengers and crew of the TWA airliner Israel released its Arab prisoners.

A young American was shot and killed on board the airliner to accelerate the proceedings. The killer was the leader of the hijackers, Hamadi said, declining to name him.

Hamadi expressed sympathy with the parents of the murdered man. They had no comment to make on a gesture that arguably came at least three years too late.

Hamadi said hijacking the airliner was a last resort in his group's attempts to secure the release of hard-pressed Arabs held in Israeli prisons.

Israeli soldiers and prison officers are known to have been guilty of serious maltreatment of Arab prisoners. Israeli courts have dealt with a number of cases.

Yet Hamadi is hardly a reliable person to give state's evidence against others for misdeeds of this kind.

He once claimed he himself had been subjected to inhuman treatment in jail, then withdrew his allegations when he felt it was advisable to do so.

Truth seems to depend on the date where he is concerned, and it can only be extracted from him in instalments.

He did not, for instance, go so far as to say who his principals were in the Beirut hijacking. Their influence extends to his prison cell. He portrayed himself as a humane hijacker, conveniently disregarding the darker aspects.

He has been found guilty on two counts of explosive smuggling, which surely shows him to be a ruthless terrorist henchman.

After the Beirut hijacking he must have realised that explosives could cost many more lives than a shot fired on board the US airliner.

The Biblical dictum about the reformed sinner is all well and good, but Hamadi's change of heart seems too calculated to give any real pleasure.

The Federal government is not interfering with the Frankfurt court proceedings, although it is well aware of the links between the Hamadi court case and the Cordes kidnapping in Beirut.

Now Hamadi has made a partial confession his case may be brought to a swifter conclusion. Once he has been sentenced the next move will be for the politicians to decide.

Bonn refused to hand Hamadi over to the US authorities, to whom he was more answerable, for the sake of German hostages held in the Lebanese capital. It will now have to decide what price a hostage's life is worth.

None of the kidnappers seems to be thinking any longer in terms of a straight exchange of Cordes for Hamadi. There will have to be another basis for the release of the German hostage.

Hermann Eich

(General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 10 August 1988)

IRA continues hit campaign

Five people were injured, including three British servicemen, when an IRA bomb exploded in a barracks in Ratingen, near Düsseldorf.

British military bases in Germany have been at the receiving end of IRA raids since the late 1960s:

- In 1978 bombs exploded, causing damage to property, at facilities in Mönchengladbach, Düsseldorf, Krefeld, Ratingen, Duisburg, Mülheim, Bielefeld and Munich.
- In February 1980 a British colonel was killed by a terrorist in Bielefeld.
- In March 1980 a captain was shot and injured while jogging near a base in Osnabrück.
- Thirty people were injured last year when a car bomb exploded at RAF Rheindahlen.
- On May Day this year the IRA carried out two raids in Roermond and Nieuw Bergen, Dutch towns near the German border, killing three British soldiers stationed in the Federal Republic.
- Two days later a car bomb was discovered — and defused in time — on British army property in Bielefeld.
- Nine servicemen were injured in a bomb attack on a barracks in Duisburg on 13 July.

dpa

(Nordwest Zeitung, Oldenburg, 6 August 1988)



Flashback to 19 June 1985. Pilot of TWA airliner with a hijacker. (Photo: dpa)

Free prisoners or we kill, threaten Kurdish terrorists

Kurdish Communist separatists are regarded widely as as big a threat as the Red Army Faction (RAF), Germany's own urban guerrillas.

The Kurdish terror organisation is the PKK, which uses brutal methods both in Turkey and in many parts of the Western world. Germany has become one of its stamping grounds.

A year ago the German domestic intelligence authorities dealt the PKK a serious blow. Leading members are now custody in Germany.

Chief public prosecutor Kurt Rebmann plans to have 16 of them tried in Düsseldorf next year on charges including murder and setting up a terrorist organisation.

PKK general secretary Öcalan is said by Herr Rebmann to have threatened to kidnap and kill a German judge or public prosecutor if the men held in custody are not released immediately.

Tight security precautions will be observed at the Düsseldorf proceedings.

German taxpayers will have to pay for the court case. They are already paying DM4m for extensions to an outstation of the Düsseldorf high court originally built in a police barracks for cases involving RAF terrorists.

The high-security outstation consists of a bombproof shelter with an underground courtroom. It needs to be enlarged this autumn to house a larger number of accused and court officials.

Steel and concrete extensions will also protect judges and public prosecutors from the chief public prosecutor's office from Kurdish terrorists.

Dieter Wendorf, spokesman for the North Rhine-Westphalian Justice Ministry, says: "The construction costs really hit us hard."

Herr Rebmann is also annoyed at the procedure necessitated by the trial of the largest number of terrorist suspects ever conducted in a single court case.

He is annoyed that the Kurds were allowed into the Federal Republic in the first place and feels that policy on aliens and on applications for political asylum is too generous.

He says it is too little geared to German security requirements and could easily emerge as a factor for instability in the Federal Republic.

The PKK ruthlessly behaves as a state within a state in Western European countries. In Sweden it is suspected of having been to blame for the murder of Premier Olof Palme.

The case against the accused, Herr Rebmann says, has nothing to do with their political views or with their aim of establishing a separate Kurdish state.

It is a matter of criminal offences such as murder, attempted murder and kidnapping. Warrants for the arrest of 23 PKK activists had been issued. Cologne was a stronghold of PKK activity.

PKK militants are said to have held kangaroo court proceedings over fellow-countrymen in their German apartments, to have sentenced them to death and regularly carried out the sentence.

Several death sentences in writing have been found in police raids.

One of the accused, Hassan Güler, 25, is said to have been a member of a "people's court" in Rüsselsheim, near Frankfurt, that sentenced to death and executed an alleged "traitor," Zülfi Gök.

"There are serious suspicions that the PKK was to blame for other murders and attempted murders in Bochum and Stuttgart last year and for the murder of Ramazan Adigünzel, a Kurdish teacher, in Hanover," Herr Rebmann says.

In May a party of Dutch and German tourists were attacked by armed PKK terrorists in Turkey.

Rebmann says: "They were robbed and only escaped with their lives by promising to advocate the release of Kurds held in custody and an end to legal proceedings against them in their home countries."

Since the German intelligence authorities were alerted a year ago Kurds have held 88 demonstrations and sit-ins in the Federal Republic and West Berlin and a further 58 in other Western European countries.

There have been 96 cases of Kurdish raids on TV stations, news agencies, (mainly) German embassies, offices of political parties, airlines, travel agents and other organisations.

Kurds have sent 150 protest letters and postcards to the chief public prosecutor accusing him of "impeding the Kurdish freedom struggle" and demanding the release of "patriots" held in German custody.

Herr Rebmann says the German judiciary has not been threatened in this way since the heyday of the RAF in 1977, but it was not going to yield to duress.

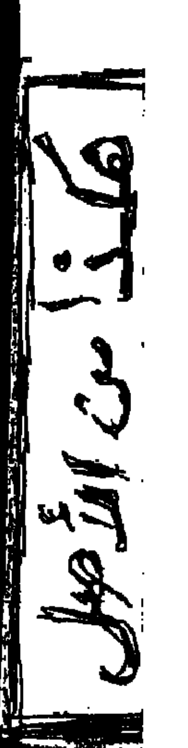
Even so, "the proceedings against the Kurds poses problems of unprecedented magnitude for the legal system."

The number of individual cells in the Düsseldorf high-security court must be more than trebled (from the present five).

Simultaneous courtroom interpreter facilities, with two cabins for the interpreters and 75 microphones for the judges, the accused, the experts, witnesses and defence and prosecution counsel will cost DM1m.

Hans Willenweber

(Allgemeine Zeitung, Mainz, 8 August 1988)



■ PERSPECTIVE

Ceausescu and his trafficking in people

SüddeutscheZeitung

Romanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu is said to have a fondness for declaring: "Our most important exports are crude oil, Jews and Germans."

This at least is what Ion Papeca said. He is the former Romanian secret service chief who defected to the West.

But these days, there is not so much crude oil for the *Conducator*, Romania's overbearing leader, to sell.

There is no money to be made either from the exodus of the Jews since America and Israel paid horrendous sums in the 1950s and 1960s to get 400,000 out.

Neither are there all that many ethnic Germans in Romania — but still enough for him to make capital out of.

He has collected a billion marks from Bonn for the 120,000 allowed to go to Germany since 1978.

In an agreement secretly negotiated with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, the procedure established that the Romanian state receive DM8,000 for every ethnic German allowed out.

There was nothing in the deal which said anything about would-be emigrants having to grease the palms of local officials just to get on the list. In any case, the agreement has now lapsed.

Negotiations are now under way for an new deal — but Ceausescu has demanded that the price be increased.

Not only that: he wants Bonn's aid politically. He wants the Bonn government to be the advocate for Romanian interests in the European Community.

Every year, billions of marks are thrown away in senseless agriculture subsidies in the European Community. Getting rid of wine lakes alone costs the taxpayer DM1.4bn a year.

If the Bonn government were to pay Romania exit fees at the old rate for all the remaining 180,000 ethnic Germans there, it would cost the same as the wine lake budget.

The Landsmannschaften (welfare and cultural associations for Germans born in the eastern areas of the Reich) maintain that "emigration is a flight from national decline and from unbearable living conditions." There is some justification for this.

Ten years ago, when Schmidt and Ceausescu made their agreement, conditions were not so bad.

The 350,000 members of the German Settlement Association, which in 1919 unconditionally had voted for the new Romanian state, had no real fears then about their identity as a national group.

The Romanian leadership regarded them as "nationalities within the nation," with a relative generous cultural autonomy, their own schools, newspapers, books and theatre.

Then Ceasescu's national policies became radically chauvinistic, directed at taking away from the minorities their will to survive as such.

Hungarians, Germans, Serbs and Croatians were no longer allowed to use placenames in their own language, teaching posts that became vacant were filled by Romanians, in a subtle way pressure was exerted to make them assimulate and resistance was put down by brutal police action.

Ceausescu's latest wild idea is to create "true equality" among all working men and woman "no matter their nationality." This involves pulling down 8,000 villages to make room for concrete agro-industrial complexes.

This systematised thrust is admittedly not especially aimed at the minorities, but it particularly affects them. They get their encouragement to carry on from their intact communities.

The constant blood-letting of emigration and an existence in general deprivation have exhausted the readiness of ethnic Germans to wait any longer.

But everyone who leaves worsens the position of those left behind, because the autonomous school system falls apart and the villages are "Romanianised" through people settling in them.

A spokesman for the Interior Ministry has said that in the current negotiations with Bucharest the Bonn government's goal was to clear the way for as many ethnic Germans as possible to leave the country.

The extinction of their identity as a national group will be speeded up for the 20 per cent or so who have firmly decided to remain.

Indeed Foreign Affairs Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said: "We are not encouraging anyone or discouraging anyone." Nevertheless an increased emmigration quota would be an encouragement. It would also have a suction effect on those who were hesitating

The Germans who have been living in the Carpathians for centuries have survived invasions by Tartars and Turks, attempts to "Magyarise" them and the disaster of the Red Army.

Measured against all this the domination of Stalinist, egomaniac Ceausescu is purely fleeting. He seems nevertheless determined to raze the position of German culture in the Balkans to the ground, and this at a time in which more and more people in the community of Europe are regarding the variety of their ethnic cultures as enriching and a bridge between them.

Such considerations and abhorrence at methods of buying people's freedom, reminiscent of medieval slave trading, hardly justify sealing the gateway to the Federal Republic for these ethnic Germans.

Olaf Ihlau

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 5 August 1988)

(Cartoon: Murschetz/Die Zeit)

Pact helps ethnic Germans in Hungary keep their culture



Various projects have been started under an agreement between Bonn and Budapest to promote the cultural identity of ethnic Germans in Hungary.

The agreement was signed by Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Hungarian Prime Minister Karoly Grósz in October last year.

No similar agreement has been made with any other Eastern European country with a German minority.

Both sides have been working hard to put the deal into action. In February, a group set up specifically for the purpose began work. The group was attached to a commission established when Budapest and Bonn signed a cultural accord in 1977.

German representation on the Commission includes representatives from the Foreign Ministry, the *Länder* and institutions responsible for implementing the agreement; the Goethe Institute, the German Academic Exchange Service, the Institute for Foreign Relations in Stuttgart and the German-Hungarian "Landsmannschaft" in Baden-Württemberg (welfare and cultural association for Germans born in the eastern areas of the Reich).

Many displaced Germans from Hungary settled in Baden-Württemberg after the war.

An official from the Foreign Ministry is chairwoman of the sub-commission on the German side, on the Hungarian side the head of the principle department for nationalities in the [illegible] Education Ministry in Budapest.

The results of the negotiations, conducted entirely in German, are impressive and various. They mainly deal with giving children of ethnic Germans in Hungary a better understanding of the German language.

Language courses lasting several weeks will be offered to teachers in nursery schools, primary schools and high schools.

Ethnic German students at teacher training colleges and pupils at high schools and trainees at nursery-teacher training centres will be coming to language centres run by the Goethe Institute and the Bavarian state.

Hungarian teachers are also being invited to Goethe Institute courses in German regional studies. Language lecturers from the Goethe Institute will be conducting special courses and seminars in German, including the science of language instruction for Hungarian teachers.

Teachers will be sent to the German-Hungarian high school in Baja and to a bilingual (German and Hungarian) high school for a year to advise on various subjects.

Teachers from Hungary who teach German or another subject in German will be coming to Germany for several weeks and will live with German families.

Hungarian schools and teacher training colleges will be getting books and technical equipment for teaching German. Lecturers and foreign language assistants for German and German regional studies at universities will be offered exchange programmes.

Ethnic German students and postgraduates will be offered scholarships to study for one or two semesters at West German universities.

Invitations to study for three months will be made to Hungarian university lecturers who are involved in teaching ethnic Germans or teaching German studies generally.

Twinning between schools and universities will be encouraged. It is planned to send donations of German books to the four chairs for German studies in Hungary.

Ethnic German journalists will be allowed to go through a practical course of training on West German newspapers, and it is intended to set up a special language course for actors from the German Theatre in Szekszard who know only a little German. It is also intended to encourage the German-Hungarian dialect.

The programmes cover 1988. Some of the plans have already been implemented. Hungarian officials involved have been for the most part cooperative. Individual differences have been sorted out.

After initial doubts by the Hungarians, language courses and seminars are now being given in Hungary by the Goethe Institute — they are designed mainly for scholarship-holders who know very little or no German.

The Goethe Institute and other organisations have enough staff to handle all these tasks. The money is also available.

The largest item involves two million [illegible] budget. Bonn and Budapest want to continue the project of promoting the German language in the coming year — mainly among the German minority but also among Hungarians who are learning German.

Then another project is to be added to this. The Federal Republic will provide a subsidy for the construction of a German training centre to be built over the next five years in Baja, in southern Hungary, including a secondary school, students' hostel and kindergarten.

The German minority in Hungary can only retain their language if they get more such centres.

The ethnic German secondary school in Baja urgently needs a new building.

Johann Georg Reissmüller

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 5 August 1988)

■ THE ECONOMY

Bundesbank sends a signal and does a balancing act

Variations in the discount or Lombard rates of interest by the central bank, the Bundesbank, are usually viewed — as intended — as signals.

The bank changes the rate to: support the mark or indicate that it needs no support; restrain or stimulate demand; increase the money supply or retard it.

The problem is that good intentions are not enough; *signals must be properly* interpreted.

The Bundesbank has given several signals in recent weeks. By raising the Lombard rate and thus making certain loans *more expensive for banks, it has pursued* its goal of tight money.

The signal, however, has for some time now been intended for the foreign exchange markets.

It is hoped that rising interest rates will increase the appeal of the mark for foreign investors.

The mark has been falling against the US dollar, something the Bundesbank wants to change.

So far its signal has failed. The dollar's upward trend still continues. It was worth DM1.877 at the beginning of August.

This upturn has lasted for several weeks and all those who buy dollars couldn't care less about the interest rate signals emanating from Frankfurt.

But has the Bundesbank had any option but to raise interest rates? Wasn't it at least obliged to try and hold down the dollar?

After all, *the whole world calls upon* the Americans to step up exports and they can only do that if the dollar stays low.

What is more, an expensive dollar *leads to rising import prices in Germany* and could thus jeopardise price stability.

So is it a case of eyes shut and interest rates up — until the dollar responds?

This would be blind enthusiasm. Take, for example, the balance-of-trade argument. The USA has already reduced part of its trade deficit, particularly in its exchange of goods with the Federal Republic of Germany. At the same time Germany's export surpluses are declining.

To interpret a one per cent annual rate of inflation as a threat to price stability would be blatantly overreacting. Other countries would be more than pleased to have this kind of figure, which is currently in no way at risk.

Political arguments and instruments become ineffective if used thoughtlessly. There is no sense in constantly talking about an inflation risk which is not serious.

It is irresponsible to tighten the interest rate screws if this has no effect. In an emergency situation the dosage would then have to be so great that a risk of exaggerated regulation could no longer be ruled out.

This wouldn't be the first time that the economy as a whole has suffered due to exaggerated monetary policy measures adopted in blind commitment to the goal of price stability.

Such measures can turn out to be counterproductive and exert a retardant influence on the economic upswing.

The German economy has expanded more markedly during recent months, but overheating is a long way off.

Some forecasters feel that the next downturn will already occur in 1989.

In certain respects it would be better if the mark stopped depreciating against the dollar.

However, if interest rates increase any further a growing number of firms will buy securities rather than machines. Potential investors will shrink back from interest costs and unemployment will remain at its high level.

Although this situation does not yet exist it is a clear possibility. An in*crease in interest rates by the Bundes*bank is inappropriate for the current economic policy situation.

The unquestioning supporters of absolute price stability should not overlook this fact.

Klaus-Peter Schmid

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 5 August 1988)

Exports, helped by exchange rate, boost expansion

Only six months ago, some forecasters predicted that the German economy would start to slow up this year.

They claimed that the effects of the turbulence on stockmarkets and foreign exchange markets would soon lead to stagnation.

The economy's expansionary forces, however, have turned out to be a lot stronger than expected. After a brief breather, things have again started to move.

Impressed by the latest data, Bonn's *Economics Minister, Martin Bangemann,* announced that a growth figure of 3 per cent is now possible this year.

German economic research institutes are much more cautious: their estimates are generally lower.

But the figures now being forecast are much better than the growth estimates of (not even) 1 per cent at the beginning of the year.

The marked expansion of the economy during the first quarter of 1988 is one reason for such optimism.

According to official estimates economic growth in real terms between January *and March was 4.2 per cent up on growth* during the same period in 1987.

Admittedly, the unusually mild weather was a major determinant factor.

Although there are no reliable projections for the second quarter of the year experts expect GNP to increase by between 2.5 and 3 per cent.

Exports have undoubtedly played a decisive role in this unexpectedly dynamic development.

There has been a pronounced increase in economic growth in many West German export markets.

The export business has benefited from *an exchange-rate-induced improvement in* competitive strength.

In April and May, German industry was able to obtain just under 9 per cent more export orders than during the previous months.

So exports are unlikely to decline in the near future. On an annualised basis, experts expect exports to increase by a good three per cent.

The second major pillar of support for *the upswing is private consumption.*

Powerful stimuli have already emanated from this by far most significant aggregate of demand since 1986.

A low rate of inflation and a clear increase in incomes have led to a respectable increase in real purchasing power.

New tax relief measures began to take effect at the beginning of the year.

Annoyance at the envisaged introduction of the withholding tax may also have induced many people to spend more money than originally planned.

However, consumption can be expected to tail off during the coming year partly because of lower real incomes and *planned increases in consumer taxes.*

Helmut Kipp

(Handelsblatt, Dusseldorf, 4 August 1988)

Protectionism

Continued from page 2

cy line adopted by the USA blatantly contradicts the spirit of the Uruguay Round, which is supposed to lead to more liberal world trade.

A breakdown of the GATT negotiations would not only have adverse effects on the Europeans, the dynamic states of East Asia and the developing countries, but also on the USA itself.

An encapsulation against efficient foreign competition would weaken rather than strengthen US industry.

The decisive factor in this awkward situation is how Europeans react.

Their policy will be very much like a tightrope walk.

On the one hand, they have to safeguard their own interests; on the other hand, they must not make the mistake of paying like with like and thus allowing themselves to be dragged *into a* protectionist escalation. The *temptation* to do so will be great.

The Europeans are by no means free from sins against the spirit of liberalism: their agricultural exports are highly subsidised and their agricultural imports strictly limited.

The number of anti-dumping proceedings brought by the European Commission against exporters from the Far East has been increasing suspiciously during recent months.

Many European Community member states have closed their borders to Japanese and Korean cars. The Federal Republic of Germany with its dependence on exports is an exception.

The tremendous subsidies for the Airbus, the shipyards and the steel industry also provide targets for criticism.

Potential disaster

It is no secret that not only France feels that the salvation of the national economy is to keep out foreign competition.

To succumb to this protectionist *temptation, however,* would be disastrous for free world trade and the European Community.

In the end it is in the interest of everyone on both sides of the Atlantic to *keep borders open.*

Thomas Gack

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 10 August 1989)

■ MONEY

Lots of it in the cash factory just round the corner from the bakery

A bakery specialising in *Christstollen*, or German-style Christmas cakes; Riem airport; and an autobahn are all nearby.

But they might as well be a world away from the mint in Munich, a concrete-shrouded oasis of peace and quiet, sealed off from the hue and cry of city life.

Nearly 5,000 cubic metres of concrete reinforced by 300 tonnes of structural steel protect the air-conditioned interior where many pass by but few enter.

Sensitive and invisible electronic alarm systems shield the squat building from the outside. Bavaria's equivalent of Fort Knox is considered impregnable.

You have to inspire confidence in one way or another for the remote-controlled outer gates to be opened to let you in to see for yourself the machine room.

It is over 80 metres (260ft) long and *looks, to the layman, much like* any other machine room: clean but a little dull, with light coming in through the skylights.

But the sound of coins clinking, a symphony of metallic melody, is not to be heard anywhere else in Bavaria, let alone in Munich.

It is the sound one might imagine Donald Duck's Uncle Scrooge must hear as he dives head-first into his strong room



full of gold and silver coins like you or I might dive into the Adriatic.

The copper pfennigs, brass ten-pfennig and cupro-nickel five-mark coins run freshly-minted, only seconds old, out of blue-painted machines.

Seconds earlier they were worthless blanks; now they are legal tender. Or certainly look like it.

Johann Meister, deputy master of the mint, runs his hand through a pile of coins and picks one up.

"Legally speaking," he says, "they aren't yet legal tender. They are only valid when they are brought *into circulation* by the Bundesbank or a *Land* central bank."

So much for the money that isn't yet cash but would be if I were to pocket it and use it to pay for a Big Mac at the *nearest hamburger place.*

Herr Meister smiles wanly at the very idea. No, he says, not a single pfennig has left the building illegally and unaccounted for since it was inaugurated two years ago.

The last successful break-in was in 1906, the year in which a tailor, Wilhelm Voigt, plundered the treasury of the Berlin borough of Köpenick wearing a Prussian captain's uniform.

A Bavarian soldier, Wilhelm König, broke and entered the old mint via the dry bed of a stream and made his getaway with 130,000 marks in gold ten-mark pieces.

But he spent his money too lavishly and was soon arrested.

Today the blanks are manufactured by private engineering firms and delivered to *the mint by truck. But when they* arrive in steel containers their contents have already been counted to the last coin-to-be.

A truckload of blanks for one-pfennig pieces consists of 300,000 units — always 300,000, but to be on the safe side the number is first checked, electronically and at lightning speed.

The blanks are passed straight through to a yellow container that is rushed by fork-lift truck to one of the 23 dies.

A conveyor belt upends them into the interior of the machine, counting the blanks in the process. There are still *300,000, to no-one's surprise.*

They are stopped in their tracks, as it were, for a fraction of a second, but that is enough to die-stamp them and make them unmistakably the tiny copper coin with the oak leaf emblem and the figure 1.

A liquid crystal display indicates a figure, either 857 or 858. That is the number of strokes of the die stamp per minute.

Each stroke represents up to 200 tonnes of pressure on the blank, but only a third on the tiny one-pfennig blank.

In the Munich mint's early days pressure was brought to bear by a human *arm wielding a hammer.*

That was in 1156, an important year for Munich. It was the year in which Henry the Lion burnt down the bishop's salt road bridge over the Isar near Freising.

At the same time he transferred the right to coin money to a newly-built mint in the village of Munich.

In the early 19th century the Munich mint became the official mint of the *kingdom of Bavaria. In 1871*, when the right of coinage passed to the Reich, it was issued with the letter D, which still marks every coin struck in Munich.

Berlin had the letter A. West German marks are *no longer minted* in Berlin, but East German marks are, and they still have the letter A.

Four of the original eight mints in the German Reich survive in the Federal Republic of Germany. They are Munich, Stuttgart (F), Hamburg (J) and Karlsruhe (G).

After the Second World War the Berlin mint was out of bounds as far as the West was concerned, so when the *1948 currency reform* was planned at a special department headed by Ludwig Erhard, the Munich mint was entrusted with the task of making the master-dies for the new deutschemark coinage.

In 40 years 34 billion coins have been struck in the Federal Republic, or roughly 560 per head of the population. Demand has increased markedly since the boom in slot machines.

Munich can mint 2.8 million coins a day, meeting 26 per cent of this demand.

Peter Schmalz

(Die Welt, Bonn, 15 July 1988)

A booming start for new ecological bank

Nearly 14,000 people have opened accounts at Germany's first alternative bank in its first 100 days.

The Ökobank, or ecological bank, is a cooperative venture in Frankfurt with net daily receipts of between DM150,000 and DM250,000. The organisers and their customers have become known as the "tennis-shoe bankers".

At the end of the first week in August the money held in Ökobank accounts totalled DM18.2m. Yet even if the bank reaches it target of DM30m in deposits by the end of its first year in business, it will still be tiny by German banking standards.

It is the only bank in the country that tells investors exactly what is being done with their money.

The Ökobank is pledged not to invest funds in large-scale chemicals, atomic energy, armaments, genetic engineering or South Africa.

Priority is given to loans for businesses or projects with the emphasis on welfare or ecology.

Savings bonds are said by Ökobank spokesman Torsten Martin to be selling like hot cakes. About DM4.3m of the customers' DM9.5m in savings account deposits have been invested in long-term bonds.

Roughly DM1m has been invested in "environment bonds," which are particularly popular with eco-savers.

He says: "Our concept has thus come *into its own from the outset. Nearly half* our customers have opted for the form of savings in which they have a say in how their money is invested."

Loans granted were less spectacular in the bank's first 100 days.

The balance sheet and articles of association set a credit limit of DM11m at present, or 60 per cent of the balance.

By the end of August only DM1.75m had been invested in 45 alternative business projects ranging from printers, cafés and bookshops to publishers, organic farmers and a furniture designer.

They were granted loans of between DM5,000 and DM200,000. Loan applications totalling a further DM1.7m are being considered.

Several dozen projects and business ventures have been turned down. They applied for loans totalling DM6m, Herr Martin says. "There are things we just can't bankroll."

Business concepts and ideas were frequently unconvincing, the credit risk too high. But medium-term loans would be considered if backed by guarantees given by [illegible]

The applications that had been turned down showed how keen the demand was for sources of funds other than conventional banks.

More of this demand is to be met from October when the Ökobank will employ a third banker to handle loan applications by potential customers.

In the meantime the bank will keep roughly DM10m on deposit at the Bank für Sozialwirtschaft, the house bank of the German Welfare Association, a group of charities including the Red Cross, the St John's Ambulance and others.

Herr Martin has no doubt there are plenty of safe and alternative investment opportunities. Demand was enormous.

Klaus Tscharnke/dpa

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 9 August 1988)

■ RESEARCH

A Stone-Age message throws light into a faraway black hole

Max Planck research scientists in Munich are taking a closer look at Sagittarius and the heart of our galaxy, the Milky Way.

Their target, known to astronomers as the SgrA complex, seems likely to be a black hole about 25,000 light-years *away from the solar system.*

(A light-year, incidentally, is the distance light covers in a year. It is about 10,000,000,000,000km.)

So electromagnetic radiation from SgrA received today was first emitted when Stone Age man was still painting cave walls in Europe and the first Indians settled in America.

By cosmic standards 25,000 years is next to no time. The image relayed by radiation tens of thousands of years old is merely a snapshot, so to speak.

The artificial eyes used by the Munich scientists are blind to visible light frequencies. They would be unable to see anything ordinarily visible in any case; interstellar dust obscures the light emitted.

In infrared and radio wave frequencies, however, SgrA comes through loud and clear.

The radio wave picture is that of a compact source less than three billion kilometres in diameter, surrounded by a mini-spiral of ionised hydrogen.

This gas envelops the central region over a distance of up to 10 light years.

The centre of the Milky Way is partly

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

embedded in and surrounded by a ring of hot dust which appears to rotate at a speed of 100km an hour.

Its orbit is not regular. There are powerful turbulences, and they appear, or so Max Planck scientists surmise, to make part of the gas cloud break loose from the rotation and plummet into the centre.

So the signs are that the nucleus of *the complex consists of highly-concentrated* mass. The Munich scientists have arrived at a weight of roughly three million suns, so there seems to be something strange in the centre of the galaxy.

A pointer to what it might be is given by the answer to the question: "What is it that makes the interstellar ring of dust shine so brightly in the infrared range?"

The ring of dust is evidently heagted by powerful ultraviolet radiation. It is an "oven" with a temperature of 35,000° C and can only be satisfactorily explained in terms of a central source with a power of about 10 million suns.

It certainly *seems to be a strange* customer, a black hole in the heart of the Milky Way, a mass so condensed that nothing can escape from it.

The Max Planck scientists may say that the idea of a gigantic black hole is still a mere surmise, but astrophysicists have long felt it may well be the case.

Black holes are felt to exist at the heart of other galaxies, cosmic phenomena caused by the collapse of a central mass equivalent to millions of suns.

Signals registered by an American satellite in the early 1980s were the first sign that our own galaxy might have a black hole in its heart.

They were gamma rays that could only have come from a specific magnesium isotope resulting from radioactive decay of the aluminium isotope, 26.

Aluminium 26 is felt by the experts to result from the fusion of hydrogen nuclei and magnesium in the superheat of nova or supernova explosions.

Measurements taken in the early 1980s were too imprecise to identify the sector of the Milky Way from which the gamma radiation originated.

New light on this point has been shed by a Compton telescope developed at the Max Planck Extra-Terrestrial Research Institute in Munich.

The telescope was launched by balloon from Brazil and beamed at the centre of the Milky Way throughout its four-and-a-half-hour mission.

*It recorded data of the radioactive al*uminium decay from the region.

The data enabled scientists to reconstruct a "light picture" of the area and to compare it with various assumptions on the distribution of exploding stars from which the cosmic aluminium might have hailed.

The likeliest assumption was found to be that it originated from a single point-shaped source in the heart of the galaxy.

The explosion at the heart of the Milky Way in which these new elements were forged one or two million years ago must have been gigantic.

The aluminium in question corresponds to the mass of three to five suns and can only be explained in terms of about 500,000 suns.

Other assumptions based on scattered nova and supernova explosions are far less satisfactory explanations of this amount of aluminium. The most plausible explanation is an enormous object in the centre of the Milky Way.

More sensitive

Scientists are keenly awaiting data to be compiled by *the gamma radiation ob*servatory that is scheduled to be sent into space by space shuttle in 1990.

The Compton telescope designed and built in Munich will also be on board. It is 30 times more sensitive than its predecessors.

Speculation is meanwhile permitted. *The latest idea is that conditions* in the hot maelstrom of matter surrounding a black hole may be ideal for synthesising new elements.

Research scientists at the University of Chicago and the California Institute of Technology recently conducted a complex computer simulation programme to back up this theory.

They even say some of the metals in the solar system may originate from the fusion "oven" surrounding the black hole at the heart of the galaxy.

Bernd Schuh

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 30 July 1988)




Model of the free-fall tower.
(Photo: Bremen Press Information)

It's a long, long, way down to the — bump!

The first zero-gravity free-fall tower in Europe is scheduled to come into use next year.

The 144 metre (about 472 feet) tower in the grounds of Bremen University will be a widely visible sign of Bremen's pioneer role in European space technology.

It will enable experiments which would otherwise have had to be made in outer space at great cost to be simulated much more cheaply on earth.

Inside the minaret-shaped building *objects will free fall 110 metres three* times a day, simulating zero gravity, or a state of weightlessness, for five seconds at a time.

The system means that Bremen will have much better conditions for zero-gravity trials than exist in the United States, where the two existing fall towers are in Huntsville, Texas, and Cleveland, Ohio.

Both are 20 years old and out of date. They are also limited to only one experiment a day.

Principals in Bochum, Erlangen, Tokyo and Madras have already booked sessions at the centre of applied space technology and microgravitation, a department of the production engineering faculty at Bremen University.

Professor Hans J. Rath, head of the Bremen centre, has signed a contract with Mitsui of Japan laying down the terms of cooperation with Japanese industry.

The tower plus adjacent laboratories and the administrative block will cost DM24m. Costs are being shared by the Bonn Ministries of Research and Technology, Education and Science, the *Land* of Bremen and local companies MBB-Erno, Krupp-Atlas Elektronik and OHB System GmbH.

The hard core of the facility will be a capsule filled to the brim with high tech. During the capsule's free fall, its interior will have zero gravity.

The five-second fall is time enough...

Continued on page 9

■ BUSINESS

Daimler-Benz's march into military hardware

Daimler-Benz has been diversifying out of cars. The group last year replaced its chief executive, Werner Breitschwerdt, who is an expert on cars, with Edzard Reuter, the son of a former mayor of West Berlin and a man with a mind more geared to diversification. It is Reuter's influence that has led Daimler-Benz to buy into MTU (engines), Dornier (aircraft) and AEG (electronic and electrical products) and develop a giant concern with annual sales of about 3 per cent of the German GNP. Now, the next step has nearly been completed: a share in aerospace firm Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm (MBB), which has a 37.9 per cent holding in Airbus Industrie. This article, by Sabine Meyer, appeared in the *Nürnberger Nachrichten*.

The flagship of German industry, Daimler-Benz, is arming itself for the future: its chairman, Edzard Reuter, has his eyes firmly on the future and is taking the group into armaments and aerospace.

Daimler-Benz has taken over 56 per cent of the AEG equity; it also held until recently 65.5 per cent of Dornier, the aircraft manufacturer (the holding is now down to 54per cent): and it wholly owns engine manufacturer MTU.

The next move is just around the corner: involvement in Germany's largest aerospace company, Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm (MBB).

The marathon negotiations are coming to a close. The latest development is that *agreement has been reached with the* Dornier family so that the way is open for Daimler-Benz's planned re-organisation of MBB.

The Dornier heirs have sold off their co-determination rights to Daimler-Benz.

In a counter-move, Daimler reduced its holding to 54 for cent, according to Martine Dornier-Tiefenthaler, spokeswoman for the Dornier family. The only stumbling block now is Airbus Industrie, in which MBB has a 37.9 per cent holding. The Bonn cabinet will make a decision about further financing of the Airbus after the summer recess. If Daimler-Benz's participation in MBB comes about (30 per cent of the MBB equity, and no-one now doubts that this will happen) then the Federal Republic's largest industrial undertaking will become even larger.

The union between MBB and Daimler-Benz will create an organisation of about 400,000 employees with turnover of about DM80bn.

Germany's largest financial institution, Deutsche Bank, is a major shareholder (28.1 per cent) and as such has a place on the Daimler-Benz supervisory board.

Not only that: Deutsche Bank chief executive Alfred Herrhausen is chairman of the Daimler-Benz supervisory board.

Many have reservations about this con*centration of power, brought about by of* all people FDP Economic Affairs Minister, Martin Bangemann.

The chairman of the Daimler-Benz workers' council, Herbert Lucy, fears that Bonn could one day be blackmailed.

He asks: "Which government could deny success to an organisation that employs 400,000?"

SPD politicians such as economic affairs spokesman Wolfgang Roth and Hamburg's new mayor, Henning Voscherau, speak of the emergence of a "military-industrial complex."

Reservations about the creation of this industrial colossus have also been raised in the Monopolies Commission, Berlin.

Professor Ulrich Immenga, chairman of the Commission, would have liked to have prohibited the amalgamation, but that would not have spelled the end for long of the links between Daimler-Benz and MBB

The law allows Economic Affairs Minister Bangemann to override rulings from *the Monopolies Commission if the limita*tion of the competitive element is in the best interests of the economy as a whole and public welfare.

Daimler boss Reuter can understand the feeling of unease caused by the creation of this industrial giant, but he countered this recently in a TV interview by saying: "I cannot accommodate myself to people's feelings. We have to adjust to Europe and the competition from the Americans and the Japanese. The action we have taken is the only correct path we can take and we must take it."

Reuter is not very keen to have his organisation labelled as a armaments manufacturer. According to his figures only ten per cent of the group's turnover was achieved from armament (defence) sales.

Nevertheless subsidiaries Dornier, MTU and the MBB organisation chalk up a half of their turnover from armaments contracts, and even AEG does its best business in this sector.

Daimler-Benz's amalgamation with MBB means that Germany's entire aviation and space industry is now under one roof at Daimler-Benz headquarters in Stuttgart. The Daimler-Benz group is now also one of the ten largest industrial undertakings in the world.

A third of all armaments contracts *from the Federal Republic* will be handled by this industrial giant, capable of supplying every kind of military equipment — fighter bombers (Tornado) and tanks, missiles and mine-sweepers, helicopter gun-ships and military trucks.

The Bundeswehr, the German Army, will have to adjust to the new monopoly organisation, which dominates all national competitors.

Even tank-builders Krauss-Maffei and weapons manufacturers Diehl are within the field of Daimler-Benz influence. MBB indirectly has a 12.5 per cent holding in Krauss-Maffei and operates RTG Raketentechnik GmbH, a missiles manufacturer, jointly with Diehl.

The only fly in the MBB ointment is, as ever, the Airbus. Bangemann's hopes that Daimler-Benz could relieve taxpayers of having to provide billions in subsidies to the Airbus, which the state *still* has to fund, disappeared a long time ago.

Edzard Reuter has made it crystal clear that he will not provide a cent for the Airbus. Bonn will have to continue shouldering this economic risk.

Only when the Airbus is making a profit is Reuter prepared to re-open discussions.

Sabine Meyer

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 5 August 1988)

Continued from page 8

which to mix new metal alloys, to analyse combustion processes and to carry out biological experiments normally impossible due to the Earth's gravitational pull.

The Bremen experiments will also be interesting in the context of engine development, materials research and flow technology.

Inside the tower extremely powerful pumps will reduce pressure, leaving residual gravitation equivalent to a mere millionth of standard gravity.

Such low ratings have not even been registered on board Spacelab.

Like film stuntmen the capsule will "splash down" in a special container lined with [illegible] matting.

The capsule is two metres long, 80cm in diameter and can carry payloads of up to 200kg, reaching a fully laden weight of 300kg.

As a further move there are plans to catapult the capsule sky-high before its free fall.

Scientific experiments will be supervised from a control panel using fitted measuring devices and a computer that controls processes and stores and relays data.

Chemists, physicists and biologists will be able to follow *the course of their exper*iments visually.

A video camera will record them, as will a high-speed camera capable of taking up to 6,000 frames per second.

Winfried Wessendorf

(Die Welt, Bonn, 27 July 1988)

Deal clears the way for new Dornier aircraft

The agreement between Daimler-Benz and the Dornier heirs about the future of Daimler-Benz's majority holding in Dornier has cleared the way forward for the controversial Do 328 aircraft project.

With a cash injection of DM300m from Daimler, Dornier can press ahead with the 30-seat, twin-engine turbo-prop aircraft.

The revivial of the project within Dornier, a company with a long tradition of aircraft manufacture, is proof of the Dornier family's continued ability to build aircraft.

The company has already supplied 50 clients with the 19-seat, short-haul, light transport plane Do 228. Dornier's capacities have been concentrated on this plane.

Last year the company had sales of DM752m, compared with DM911 in 1986. The Do 328 should ensure Dornier's future into the 1990s.

Early in 1987 Dornier invested DM50m in the preliminary research and development phase for this aircraft. It as hoped that Do 328s would be rolling off *the production line* by 1992.

Then in June, because of uncertainties about financing, the Dornier executive board, and Daimler-Benz, as majority shareholder, halted the project.

The Dornier workers' council regarded this as endangering 4,000 jobs at Dornier plant in Munich and Friedrichshafen.

The 150 contracts for Do 228 aircraft were achieved in many cases with the announcement by Dornier of an extension of the range to the Do 328.

This plane should stengthen Dornier's involvement in civil aircraft manufacture, but many observers believe that the Do 328 will burst on the booming short-haul and feeder plane market too late in 1992.

The 30-seater plane will enter into a sector of the market in which several companies are already successfully operating.

There is for instance the SF (Saab Fairchild) 340, a model produced by the Swedish Saab firm.

The SF 340 is used in the Federal Republic by Delta-Air of Friedrichshafen. The Swiss Crossair company, in which Swissair has a 50 per cent holding, has been flying them for some time.

The Dash-8 is also on the market, manufactured by de Havilland of Canada, which is a subsidiary of Boeing.

The Brazilian Embraer 120 is also in this short-haul category and is operated by the Frankfurt-based DLT (in which Lufthansa has a 60 per cent holding).

The Do 328 is a further development *of the Do 228 (that was deployed last* year by Südavia between Munich and Saarbrücken).

A model built in the ratio of 1 : 10 was shown at the international Hanover air show in spring this year and created something of a sensation.

The Do 328 will have a range of approximately 1,300 kilometres and a speed of between 600 and 630 kilometres per hour. Because the passenger accommodation will be pressurised it will be more comfortable than the smaller model.

In an interview with economics magazine *Wirtschaftswoche*, Dornier chairman Johann Schäffler assumed that within 15 years of start-up of production 400 Do 328s would be sold.

With a dollar exchange rate of DM1.80, it is expected that with sales of this order the project would move into profitability. This threshold would only be reached with the smaller Do 228 with a dollar exchange rate of DM2.30.

The latest settlement also includes an agreement that Daimler-Benz would participate in the multi-purpose sea-plane *Seastar*, a project belonging to a company set up by the Dornier heirs.

dpa/vwd

(Saarbrücker Zeitung, 5 August 1988)

■ BALLET / DANCE

They're not born; and making them still presents big problems

The Germans are not quite the born ballet dancers that some other folk are, says Gert Reinholm, ballet director at the Deutsche Oper in Berlin since 1961.

Reinholm has had his own ballet school, the Berliner Tanzakademie, for 21 years. In the early years of German ballet, in the late 1940s and 1950s, he was one of the few *danseur nobles* of international reputation who brought classical ballet to Germany.

Over the years, he has seen many attempts to improve standards of ballet training get off to energetic starts but falter badly.

After half a century of being involved in ballet, is the comment: "The Germans are not born dancers," the only thing that can be said? No-one was born a dancer, he says. Not even Negroes, whom it is assumed have rhythm in their blood. A sense of rhythm, a predisposition to the dance, may be inherited.

Or not at all, as the case may be, in Reinholm's view. It is obvious that a good third of our affluent citizens are over-weight. The sedentary occupations of many lead to a physical sluggishness among young people.

Anyone who would like to do more than the obligatory sports at school, must take the initiative himself, particularly if he is drawn towards "the dance."

The fact that there are so few young people taking to ballet in this country is based to a large extent on the dubious image a life in the arts has.

A generation ago the arts had a reputation for immoral behaviour. Today parents look at the wretched job opportunities in the arts and the social risks of pursuing a career in them — objections that are made against dancing and the ballet more forcefully than against acting, the musical theatre and membership in an orchestra.

The decision to train professionally to dance must be made at the age when other children go to secondary school, and thus begin on the path towards obtaining career qualifications.

Pursuing a dual path, ballet training plus the *Hochschulreife*, academic standard required for university entrance, is filled with pitfalls. Most attempts are doomed to failure because of the double burden and the sheer problem of fitting everything into the time available.

Equally, many trained dancers fail because they cannot stand the pressures.

Disillusioned and disappointed, they move into other professions and the people they have to compete with by now often have higher academic qualifications.

Then, which father wants to see his son as a dancer on the stage? A daughter — that's all right. But a dancing son?

Many parents see ballet as being a sort of feminine activity like hospital or kindergarten work.

The profession of male dancer, on the other hand, seems unmanly, somehow allied to homosexuality. Prejudices live long.

The initiators of the Munich-based Heinz Bosl Foundation recognised this about 10 years ago when it started to encourage male dancers. The foundation is named after a German male dancer who died in 1975 at the age of 28 from cancer.

The private foundation has for some time now also trained female dancers. It is a school with an international reputation. It has recently been involved in ballet training at the state-run College of Music in Munich and over the years it has taken on more and more of the College's ballet training responsibilities.

A couple of attempts to improve ballet training in this country have been very successful.

At the end of the 1960s things began happening. John Cranko, who had led the Stuttgart Ballet to international fame, added to the Ballet a school of dancing, similar to the organisations that the great ballet nations have had for centuries, such as in Leningrad, Paris or Copenhagen.

Very quickly a considerable amount of talent was discovered. This led to the Federal Republic getting recognition for the first time as a country for training ballet dancers.

If it had not been for the pioneering role taken on by Stuttgart it is unlikely that the ballet school attached to the Hamburg Opera would have got off its marks quite so fortunately.

The school was founded by Hamburg's ballet director, John Neumeier. After ten years it has not only moved into a splendid building, it is beginning to advance into the first rank of important schools of ballet in the world, due to the marvellous successes it has had in training dancers.

The Hamburg school is the only "company school" in the Federal Republic. Dancers can be trained in the best possible way for their profession, in close association with a working ballet ensemble.

Gert Reinholm has recognised the advantages of such an arrangement for a long time. His dual function as ballet director and head of a school of ballet makes it possible for him to place pupils from his ballet school in productions at the Deutsche Oper in Berlin.

If Reinholm can bring about the far-reaching plans he has in mind then the Tanzakademie will be attached to the Deutsche Oper.

John Neumeier has the difficult task of appointing a new leading dance instructor (teaching dancing and the history and theory of dancing).

The successful applicant will probably not be a German — that would be a typical upshot for this country.

It has produced fewer renowned dance instructors than male or female dancers. There is a reason for this in history, but not only in history.

Countries with famous schools of ballet, countries where academic dancing originates such as Italy, France and Russia, have formed over the centuries the development and popularity of this courtly art. They have created dancer personalities whose names became known worldwide.

A requirement for their ballet training was competent instructors. They were to be found and their teaching methods refined in locations where stage dancing was already well established — which Germany could only maintain with complete justification after John Cranko made the initial moves in Stuttgart.

Today it should be the task of the colleges of music (and eventually the state) to improve educational standards. So it is not surprising that heavy weather has been made of this.

No proof of ability is required to train *young dancers privately off one's own* bat and on one's own account.

The thousands of private ballet schools are not under the control of any body of laws or even friendly supervision.

What is worse is that the heads of these schools are not legally responsible for the false promises they make to keep their believing, paying clients, or for the bodily harm the young dancers suffer because of their teachers' lack of knowledge of their subject.

Private ballet schools are usually opened by former dancers, who at 40 (have to) end their careers. Some have to bow out earlier because of injury.

As is the case now these dancers are legally covered only by inadequate social benefits for the 20 years until they are due for a pension. It would then be cynical to deny them by legislation the only means they have of earning a living in this interim period — in a private ballet school.

This miserable situation must be laid at various doors — despite promises to improve the situation it remains as it was.

The number and the professional level of young German dancers cannot be improve if the training from instructors is all at sixes and sevens, and if the social benefit network for dancers is full of holes.

Many people are reluctant *to clamour for government action. But this* is an instance in which it seems really necessary. But whether anything will be done is another matter.

The Heinz Bosl Foundation has approached the private dancing schools on its own initiative — to get them to overcome their reservations about cooperating with one another.

Ambitious private ballet schools cooperate (at least regionally) rather than compete with one another, so that with their joint resources they can improve the level of training.

The first fine arts gymnasium in the Federal Republic has been opened at Werden, a district of Essen.

The Education Ministry in Düsseldorf is trying to provide *training* in dancing and school studies running parallel to one another.

It can be said, then, that something is being done about ballet training in this country.

Horst Vollmer

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 10 August 1988)

The longing for a place in academia

When dance scholars from all over the world met in Essen earlier this year at the first international congress of its kind, they confirmed that, apart from the US, their discipline is the poor cousin of the academic world.

The US is the pioneer of the discipline. Its plight elsewhere is accounted for by the fact that dance scholarship involves a close and indissoluble link between theory and practice, which is regarded with suspicion by the university establishment. It seems unacademic.

No-one intended to maintain that creators of dance were themselves liable for the disdain offered their métier.

Outsiders may feel that theory is given too much importance. Dancers themselves say that practice is the vital element.

It has been the task of the practitioners in dance to articulate what they do and develop a vocabulary and a methodology to facilitate academic contact.

It seems that more and more supporters are being won over to this realisation...

The Cologne-based German Academy of Dance, founded as a non-profit society a year ago, has taken up the cause of reflection, dicussion and research in the dance. It modestly aims at influencing lay people and professionals about the practice of dance training in this country.

If dance scholarship is to gain a firm place among the faculties of German universities then different efforts are called for.

The German Academy of Dance is not without its predecessors. There have been an astonishing number of attempts to ensure and improve dancing and dance training with organisations of various degrees of efficiency.

There have been just as many attempts to improve the social conditions of the dancer as well.

The history of these attempts, the history of the first German dancing masters association of 1873, the congress of dancers, and the various dancers and instructors associations, will never be written.

Ultimately the history of these attempts is a history of failure, for personal or organisational reasons, or on economic or political grounds. Progress, if there was ever any, was made at a snail's pace.

Kurt Peters, doyen of German dance criticism and of the founding committee of the new association, knows this only too well out of his own experience.

He started the direct forerunners of the German Academy of Dance in 1953 and 1960 in Hamburg and Cologne.

The disappointing experiences of the past do not alter the fact that it is essential for a forum of the kind Peters intends.

Its chances of survival seem to be at least better than the dance and ballet councils that were established recently with fine-sounding statutes, which failed to conceal, however, that they were primarily set up to serve the interests of the founder.

The Cologne academy would like to gain influence, but in a specific context.

The academy has traced in Germany "various departments of colleges of music that call themselves academies, but none of them lived up to this title; dance history, dance theory and education" and other disciplines "are chaotic," and "the ignorance of pupils about the dance" remains unchanged.

This is how the German Academy of Dance sees the tasks before it and wants to direct its course towards research, documentation and teaching.

The academy will bring together people interested in the dance, theoreticians and those in practical fields, people of every shade of opinion, so that they can work together and reflect on the dance together.

It will succeed if it remains true to its magazine, that appears at irregular intervals, *assemblé*. [illegible]

Horst Vollmer

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 6 August 1988)

■ EDUCATION

The bottomless pitfalls of being a foreign student

RHEINISCHER MERKUR

Ahmad Saylh, a 20-year-old Palestinian, says he wanted to study in Germany because "one had more freedom."

He is attending the student college in Bonn, where foreigners without university qualifications can take an assessment test after a technical and language course usually lasting two semesters. Successful students can attend a German university.

Most of the students come from the Third World. School-leaving certificates in European and Scandinavian countries are usually regarded as an adequate qualification for entrance to a German university.

Before students are plagued by the perils of the German language and the acquisition of technical knowledge, they have to overcome difficult bureaucratic hurdles; they have to get a student's visa from the German embassy.

Most come to Germany in the certain knowledge that they will have big financial difficulties. So, is it just greater feedom that attracts them?

Many of the 50,000 students from the Third World come for political reasons. Nahid, an Iranian medical student, who after a German-language course at the Goethe Institute in Passau lasting several months, did not return home.

Or they are guided by idealism, such as Nicanor Hotou, a 27-year-old from the Cameroun, who stubbornly wanted to learn something of the great wide world, which was impossible in the limited educational possibilities available to him at home.

Added to this is the high reputation that the German university system enjoys abroad, which is why the 26-year-old Cheol Kee Shin wanted to graduate in political science "in the land of Goethe, Schiller, Heine, Kant and Beethoven, the land of art and learning," and not, as is usual for Korean students, in the United States.

It could be that the fact that students do not have to pay fees could be an important consideration. Germany's trump card over Britain, France and the US.

Nevertheless, despite this financial advantage, students who come to Germany privately have difficulties finding the money to live here.

Not all private students are as lucky as Nahid from Iran, Shakila from India or Hussein from Egypt, all of whom have been fully supported by their families.

All foreign students have to produce evidence that they will receive financial support of DM800 per month, but this written evidence more often than not does not match up to the realities.

David, from the Cameroun, comes from a poor family. He would have only DM25 a month to live off if he did not get some part-time jobs and was not [illegible] acquaintances.

This is an extreme case; but only a few students can count on getting a regular adequate allowance.

It is impossible to say how many of the 83,000 foreign students in the Federal Republic have long-term financial difficulties. Those concerned are not eager to give information, for they fear that this might endanger their residential permit.

All nationals from non-European Community countries get only a limited work permit, valid for only 10 weeks per year during the semester holidays.

It is well known to officials in the aliens office and the universities that foreign students earn money, like their fellow German students, from sideline jobs.

Martin Buschermöhle, of the Catholic University Community in Bonn, who is responsible for looking after foreign students who have fallen on hard times, has called on the authorities to do more to help "private" students in this country.

He said that the authorities should relax the restrictive practices applied to *work permits, and that part-time jobs* should be kept for them at the job vacancies offices in the universities.

The Catholic University Community supports students from developing countries who have fallen into need through no fault of their own with at a maximum DM600 a year.

The Protestant Student Community is another important contact organisation for foreign students. Pastor Helmut Hofmann has to deal with all kinds of questions in his consultation hours, but "financial problems" are by far and away the most regular difficulty he has to deal with.

The Protestant Student Community has a budget of more than DM50,000 to help individual cases. The Community in Bonn also has an emergency fund to help students complete their studies, provided thanks to a very active church community in Bonn.

Martin Buschermöhle has also asked that something should be done for foreign students to study at German universities who had no grant or did not come from affluent families.

He asked that the emergency funds for foreign students, approved in a nominal allocation in 1986 by the Bundestag but deleted the following year, should be reinstated.

Church officials are looking favourably on a proposal made by a member of the Bundestag that *the Churches should pour* DM3 million and the Bonn Education Ministry DM6 million into a special fund.

In Church circles this is regarded as an expression of the state's willingness to help foreign students.

This would provide a financial foundation for encouraging international contacts in consideration of the "special needs of foreign students," as spelled out in government university legislation.

Proposals were made in a 1986 investigation for the Bonn Education Ministry for "improving the information about admittance and study conditions for German universities and general information about living conditions in the Federal Republic," about a standardisation "of the dates and procedures for application and admission to universities," and a two-year residential permit instead of one lasting only a year.

Franz Stadelmaier, head of the Bonn students college, said that the "problems of a federalist bureaucracy" could not be solved by proposals.

"No-one will surrender an inch of jurisdiction. The regulations governing foreigners studying in this country should not be a matter of the federal states' authority, but should be organised centrally."

At this point the aliens authorities come into it. Foreign students have to report to the aliens office every year and officials in this office are solely responsible for granting residential permits.

It is entirely up to them what criteria they apply, favourable or unfavourable to foreign students.

South Korean Cheol Kee Shin, who has been studying in Bonn since March 1985, finds it hard to understand why every year the Bonn aliens office asks him if it is his intention of remaining in the Federal Republic.

He believes that the German authorities are too worried "that foreign students could remain here for a life-time."

"I'm studying for the benefit of my homeland. How could I live for ever in this foreign culture?" he said.

He would like to graduate as soon as possible, "so as to return home as quickly as possible." This is a desire that he shares with more than 70 per cent of foreign students.

He commented: "Foreign students represent a considerable credit for Germany's future international relations. We shall always be grateful to the Germans that we were allowed to study in the Federal Republic."

Susanne Luff

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 5 August 1988)

Less freedom than tomatoes and sardines

Jean Monnet, one of the pioneers of European unity, once said: "If I could do all it again, I would begin with education."

In the 1958 Treaties of Rome, education is only referred to towards the end of the text, in Article 128.

This Article states that occupational training should be an important element in cooperation.

Its position in the text shows what significance this passage had. It was nothing more than a non-committal sentence.

There was little intention of coming to any agreement over educational questions. Education is regarded as one of those untouchable areas of state jurisdiction — schooling is still regarded in that light.

Only after a shameful period of 20 years is the realisation slowly setting in that the idea of "European citizens" cannot be implemented so long as freedom of movement is provided for tomatoes and sardines but not for citizens, as [illegible] put it.

"Freedom of movement for EC citizens presupposes that they can be educated in other countries of the European Community.

The first step was made in February 1976. Education ministers decided on a campaign that would go towards making the education systems conform more to one another and improve exchanges between universities.

This resolution was an important beginning, but in practice very little was changed.

The demand that every citizen of the European Community should learn two member-state languages has had little influence on school curricula.

Because finance ministers are very close, mutual educational and pilot programmes by major EC members have not been of real significance, although some of them are very promising.

European education policies really came to life two or three years ago — the target of a Single European Market in 1992 has been the stimulus.

At the end of 1986 the COMETT programme was started, a programme aimed at intensifying exchanges of students and qualified personnel between universities so as to strengthen Europe's competitive position in trade and industry on world markets.

A year later the "Erasmus" Programme followed, aimed at boosting student exchange within the European Community.

Only 1.2 per cent of the six million students in the European Community study in another member-state. By 1992 this figure should be at least ten per cent.

Obviously education and finance ministers will have to allocate much more money than the DM150m (0.2 per cent), which has been put aside so far in the EC budget for educational purposes.

Then the EC Commission is of the view that 90 per cent of foreign students should be supported by a full education grant. Apart from that it must be clarified how the regulations governing foreign students in this country can be taken into account without extending the study period further.

The greatest success in European education policies so far has been the mutual recognition of university degrees. Architects were the forerunners. They came to an agreement in 1985 after 17 years of arduous negotiation about the length and fields of training. Doctors and pharmacists followed soon after.

These three professional groups agreed to bring their training into line — no mean task when it is remembered that state education ministers in the Federal Republic tore out their hair over mutual recognition of the *Abitur*, the university entrance qualification.

The EC Council of Ministers agreed a few weeks ago about recognition of the remaining university degrees, but alignment was not achieved.

Bonn Education Minister Jürgen Möllemann said: "We must accept that the qualifications a member-state stipulates as necessary to pursue a profession are fundamentally equal for pursuing that profession in other member-states."

In future a German city-planner can set up in Portugal and an Italian doctor can practise in Germany.

In a few exceptional cases graduates can be asked to take an additional examination or do an orientation course, for example lawyers or an engineer who has graduated from a college having done only three years' training.

The next argument of jurisdiction is built into the agreement about university degrees. The agreement recognising degrees, signed by central government, raises the question for the *Länder* whether EC nationals could become German civil servants, for instance language teachers in a state school. Or would they only be taken on as staff personnel?

Lilo Seibel-Emmerling regards it as a possible consequence that the civil servant status of teachers would be put in doubt.

Georg Escher

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 19 July 1988)

■ HEALTH

Aids in the workplace: brushing aside a lethal risk with a dirty joke

NÜRNBERGER Nachrichten

Imagine an employee of a German company standing up at a staff meeting and announcing: "I am HIV-positive." Is the very idea absurd?

"The place would be empty in next to no time," says the personnel manager of a Nuremberg industrial firm. "The staff would demand his dismissal."

Aids may everyone's business, as the slogan has it, but it is a problem most employers either pass over in silence or leave to their works doctors.

Yet there can be no denying the anxiety that exists in companies whose staff are frequently abroad, in Central Africa and South America.

"If you brush the problem under the carpet," says Lutz Bergau, "you merely breed bacteria that destroy the fabric."

Dr Bergau is head of the medical service at Lufthansa. The fabric to which he referred was the atmosphere or climate of opinion within a company.

Lufthansa was one of the first German firms to take an offensive line on the Aids problem. In 1985 all the airline's staff *were handed a brochure about the virus* together with their salary slip. They have since been regularly briefed on the latest findings.

Two thousand Lufthansa staff have undergone a voluntary HIV test. But precautions are only part of the campaign. A clear corporate concept is no less important.

There must be no segregation or discrimination of HIV-positives and Aids victims. "At Lufthansa we have overcome the fear of contact," says Dr Bergau.

Siemens hopes to make similar headway, having gone on to the offensive at the end of last year and concluded a company agreement on Aids that deals in exemplary fashion with all aspects of the problem.

Nine Siemens employees have died of Aids, four are off sick and 17 are HIV-positive.

These figures are not definite. Siemens do not keep company health statistics. Tests are not compulsory.

"Anyone who wants an HIV test can take one," says Siemens PRO Peter Ruppenthal. "Our works doctors are free to reach their own decisions."

It was the Siemens works doctors who proposed a list of measures when the company began to wonder what to do if the number of Aids cases among Siemens staff were to increase by leaps and bounds.

In June the board of directors instructed managerial staff in writing to bear their social responsibility in mind. This meant both supplying realistic information about the disease and preventing the isolation and segregation of staff infected or sick.

They were told that as matters stood there was no job at Siemens which could not be performed by an HIV-positive. "It must be made clear to staff that there is no need for the least change in behaviour toward a fellow-Siemens worker who is suffering from Aids or is infected by the Aids virus."

An estimated one worker in 500 in the Federal Republic of Germany is HIV-positive. Yet silence still seems to be considered golden. Aids is felt not to be a suitable subject for corporate discussion. Enquiries are dismissed curtly:

"We employ no HIV-positives to the best of our knowledge." — "We don't send queers overseas." — "We can't see our site workers overseas rushing to the nearest brothel."

The lethal risk is brushed aside as a dirty joke. Tolerance can't be enforced. Companies are worried that the staff response might be hectic, not to say hysterical, if an employee were known to be HIV-positive.

As one company spokesman put it: "We would have to have the celebrities round daily who share an HIV-positive's coffee cup in TV advertising spots."

At MAN's Oberhausen Gutehoffnungshütte division everything to do with Aids is dealt with by the works doctor. The subject does not otherwise arise.

At Brochier, the construction company, the works doctors are also left to handle precautions for site workers who *fly off to Libya and Sudan.*

Diehl in Nuremberg have raised the issue in their house magazine, noting that the presence of an HIV-positive does not constitute an infection risk.

"It is most important to tag on to the exemplary campaigning done by the Health Ministry," says PRO Dirk-Michael Zahn, who hopes the TV spots and company statements will have a cumulative effect.

Yet despite their restraint and reserve directors, personnel managers, works doctors and in-house lawyers are well aware that they must act — and are briefing themselves on the subject.

The German Personnel Management Association has held two conferences on "Aids: Consequences for the Company." They have generated so much interest that a third seminar is to be held in Düsseldorf this autumn.

It will deal with specific possibilities of in-house information, with labour relations and with legal *aspects such as* whether job applicants can be legally obliged to take an HIV test, whether an infected or sick person can be dismissed and whether the management can yield to staff pressure for the dismissal of an Aids-infected colleague.

"Precautions are no longer the prime consideration," says Dr Elisabeth Pott, *head of the Federal Health Education* Centre. "Nearly everyone now knows what they are."

A change in outlook is what matters. Solidarity. That is the main concern of a new brochure entitled "Aids — What Employers and Employees *Need to Know*" and a poster for works notice boards.

"Openness is the best approach," says Dr Ursual Mikulicz, head of tropical medicine at the GTZ, a technical development agency in Eschborn, near Frankfurt, that is largely funded by the Federal government.

She feels it is disgraceful that public opinion has embarked on a virtual religious feud over Aids. Aids, she says, is a medical problem, not a moral one.

It must be discussed directly even though people may react indignantly on the basis of double standards.

Infected people ought not to travel to the tropics, if only because they are more likely to contract other diseases.

Those who do travel to the tropics ought to undergo a test in view of the mandatory vaccinations. The yellow fever jab can be lethal if you are suffering from immune deficiency.

Certainly, no-one stands to benefit, least of all those directly affected, by secrecy. In the long term company executives and personnel managers cannot ignore an issue that has triggered *a phobia in* their company.

A number of countries (they include Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Saudi Arabia and China) already insist on an Aids test before issuing a visa for any length of time.

That may be a ridiculous reaction, as Dr Mikulicz puts it, but it is certainly indicative of a trend.

Before company staff are going to summon the courage to own up to being HIV-positive they will need to feel sure of care and attention, job safety and esprit de corps.

Kerstin Möller

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 23 July 1988)

Self-help groups overcome the scepticism

As recently as a decade ago self-help groups *were viewed sceptically* by politicians and specialists alike, yet they have come into their own as an important factor in social relations.

There are an estimated 50,000 of them in the Federal Republic of Germany: alcoholics and drug addicts, unemployed and cancer victims.

Whatever the common denominator, self-help groups have for millions of Germans become their sheet anchor and a place where they can discuss their problems and personal fears and woes.

The work done by self-help groups is now acknowledged by politicians. The Ministry of Youth, Family Affairs, Women and Health in Bonn has given financial support its go-ahead, and a number of groups are paid grants.

They include the *Bremer Topf*, an association of about 150 self-help groups and self-governing projects in Bremen, where self-help has a longstanding tradition.

The city has over 600 groups active in the most varied sectors. They have *been in receipt of grants for years.*

This year the *Bremer Topf* (the name, "Bremen Pot," implies a lump allocation from which cash is drawn) has called for an increase in its grant from DM4m to DM5m.

Bremen plans, by means of a self-help advisory council, to base financial support for self-help groups on a new concept.

The new concept will be tested for an initial two years in key sectors, such as health, and extended to others if it proves a success.

The *Bremer Topf* is in receipt of grants from the Family Affairs Ministry in Bonn as it already practises part of what Bonn has in mind, being a cooperative organisation of charities, welfare associations and alternative groups.

It was formed in 1986. Its members include the Bremen *Gesundheitsladen*, or Health Cooperative, the German Welfare Association (its members include the Red Cross, the St John's Ambulance Association and others), the municipal health department and the Self-Help Network.

"I never cease to be amazed at how well cooperation works and how well we get on with each other," says Clemens Müller of the *Gesundheitsladen*.

He is a psychologist who used to work for the coop on a voluntary basis but is now paid a three-quarters salary out of Federal government funds.

As a member of the alternative health movement he admits to never before having looked beyond the horizons of his own group. But now, as a member of the *Bremer Topf*, he comes into contact with other groups ranging from the Rheumatism League to a four-member group interested in *Angst* and keen to recruit new members.

Bremen may hold pride of place in the German self-help landscape, but Clemens Müller is envious of Berlin, where the House of Representatives made self-help groups an initial grant of *DM7.5m in 1983.*

The Welfare Association has now taken over running the central self-help, contact and information centre.

Berlin's health senator, Ulf Fink, sees this arrangement as a welcome instance of "alternative groups and traditional welfare associations joining forces."

Berlin is the only *Land* that awards self-help groups grants on a par with the grants available in America, Britain or, say, Holland.

Berlin's self-help grants budget totals DM10m a year. Financial backing for self-help groups is far less bountiful in *other parts of the country.*

In a survey of welfare and health authorities the Berlin-based National Contact and Information Centre for Self-Help Groups has discovered that the self-help group in its original form is lent least help.

In a brochure to help groups to get going this nucleus of the self-help group is described as follows:

"In a small discussion group about six to 12 people meet to talk regularly about their common difficulties and interests. They organise on a partnership basis, with no-one in charge."

P.A.U.K.E. in Bonn began as just such a group. It now has 120 members. Its initials stand for: Projects, Jobs, Environment, Communication, Reintegration.

"We began as a group of six former drug addicts," recalls Lukas Ritter, 25, who was an alcoholic at 13, then "graduated" to cannabis, LSD and, finally, cocaine.

He underwent treatment to cure him of drug addiction at 21. He then found, as did others, that after-care services leave much to be desired, which is why many ex-addicts go back on the bottle or the needle.

They decided to do something to help stabilise and reintegrate ex-addicts.

What they have accomplished is well worth closer scrutiny. It includes a café *near the city centre that is now self-supporting.*

It employs seven former social security claimants as part of a North Rhine-Westphalian job training scheme.

They are paid between DM1,000 and DM1,800 a month, depending on family status, by the social security department and work an eight-hour day.

They are given time off work on an hourly basis to attend further education courses and take school-leaving certificates. "One young man has already

Continued on page 13

■ ECOLOGICAL CRISIS IN NORTH SEA

15-billion mark project aims at hitting two deadly pollutants

Pollution in the North Sea has a variety of sources. Some countries, like Britain, simply pump phosphate-rich sewage into it. The waterways of Europe bring industrial waste down to it. The problem has become such an international one that it forms an important part of the Federal Republic of Germany's foreign policy. Parts of Czechoslovakia and East Germany are heavily polluted from heavy industry and effluent pumped into rivers runs through Western Europe and into the sea. This is why West Germany has signed environmental protection agreements with both East Berlin and Prague, backed by easy credit terms for expensive investment in purification projects. In West Germany itself, the Environment Minister, Klaus Töpfer, has announced a 15 billion mark project to improve sewage-cleaning plant. The minister also intends banning waste incineration by 1994. In this article for the *Stuttgarter Zeitung*, Stefan Geiger looks at the origins of the muck which is throttling the North Sea.

Federal Environment Minister Klaus Töpfer plans to invest DM15bn in improving sewage-purification plant in Germany.

The aim is to clean domestic sewage and industrial effluent of phosphates and nitrogen compounds in a solitary but *important step towards reducing* North Sea pollution.

Reducing the quantities of phosphate and nitrogen that are pumped into rivers and waterways and flow down to the sea would ease the "overfertilisation" of the North Sea that has been blamed for the unusually heavy increase in seaweed in recent weeks.

An estimated 100,000 tonnes of phosphates and 1.5 million tonnes of nitrogen compounds a year are pumped into the sea by North Sea states.

New and improved purification plant at sewage works would, in contrast, have no effect on the roughly 40,000 tonnes of heavy metal and 150,000 tonnes of oil a year that pollute the North Sea.

That leaves the 100,000 tonnes of toxic waste a year that are still incinerated at sea and 20,000 tonnes of domestic garbage sent overboard by ships at sea.

Professor Töpfer plans to ban waste incineration by 1994.

Public debate has concentrated on *detergents as a source of phosphate pollution* of water resources. But industry says only one sixth of the phosphates that find their way into the sea via German rivers comes from washing machines in German homes.

Twice this amount is contained in human excrement — not, one would have thought, a factor that can be greatly reduced.

The "overfertilisation" of waterways is a phenomenon known to scientists as eutrophication, or a state of being over-nourished.

It was first observed, and began to worry scientists, in lakes and slow-flowing waterways found to be over-rich in nutrients, either naturally or, in this case, as a result of artificial pollutants, nd having a too abundant growth of water plants and animals.

The North Sea, by virtue of its sheer size, withstood pollution longer.

In the Federal Republic, as in other industrialised countries, an accepted *technique has existed for many years* that filters most phosphates out of sewage and effluent.

Well over 200 sewage plants use a "third," chemical purification stage. It is used, for instance, to regenerate Lake Constance.

Precipitation is the keyword. Chemicals such as aluminium sulphate are added to the sewage, causing the phosphates to form flakes that can be separated from the water.

This process increases by 50 to 100 per cent the proportion of dry matter in the resulting sewage sludge, the volume of which does not necessarily increase.

Other methods of cleansing sewage of phosphates are now on trial. One such experiment is with bacteria that can ab*sorb and store phosphorus* in amounts over and above the quantity required for cell growth.

Biological cleansing of phosphates is thus greatly improved, with the result that fewer precipitants are needed.

Further experiments are aimed at producing a fairly pure recycled phosphate suitable for various industrial uses.

An entirely different approach uses a vortex bed reactor, harnessing chemical and physical means of producing granules with a low water content that can be reused by the phosphate industry.

The first industrial pilot plant based on this technique was built last year in Hol*land.*

The experts are naturally worried — particularly worried — about sludge, which is an inevitable by-product of sewage treatment. The proposed investment in new sewage plant will definitely increase yet again the proportion of dry mass in the sludge.

Sludge has hit the headlines because it can be seriously polluted with heavy metal, although experts work on the assumption that this risk is often exaggerated.

As they see it, the sludge problem — and one certainly already exists — is mainly one of sheer quantity.

The country's annual output of sewage sludge is between 50 million and 70 million cubic metres, including roughly 2.5 million tonnes of dry matter.

Sludge used to be highly regarded as a fertiliser, especially by farmers, and only two years ago 29 per cent was put to agricultural use.

This *figure is unlikely to have changed significantly since 1986*, and scientists work on the assumption that 50 per cent of sewage sludge contains such a low heavy metal content that it can be spread on fields with impunity.

Sewage sludge as a by-product of precipitation is particularly interesting for farmers on account of its high phosphate count.

Yet most of the sludge — 59 per cent in 1986 — is dumped. Other countries, such as Britain, simply pump it into the North Sea. In 1986 a mere nine per cent of German sewage sludge was incinerated and a further three per cent composted.

Increasing attempts have been made in recent years to recycle useful substances from this sludge. Incineration has proved fairly expensive and problematic in view of the sulphur dioxide and heavy metal content of smokestack emission.

The energy generated by incineration is generally used to produce steam, which in turn can be used to dry the sludge prior to incineration.

An additional fuel is, of course, needed to fire the sludge. Phosphorus *can be reclaimed in meaningful quantities* from the resulting ash.

The drawbacks of sludge incineration may be eliminated by pyrolysis, or heating sludge in a sealed furnace, converting much of the residue into light and bituminous oil.

Sewage sludge, with its mixture of organic substances and high protein and fat content, bears a surprising resemblance to the sludge deposits of natural waterways that formed the basis of what are now petroleum deposits.

A pilot plant is in operation at Hamburg University. The project scientists emphasise that pyrolysis produces far fewer ex*haust fumes than incineration.* Whether, as optimists claim, the proceeds of gas and oil sales will cover the cost of dehydration is another matter.

Stefan Geiger

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 4 August 1988)

Continued from page 12

passed his school-leaving certificate," Ritter says, "and another two are taking adult education courses." Former addicts also serve in the café. "That is important," Ritter says, "because addicts who call round in need of help are not afraid of them."

There is no "threshold fear" as there is of calling at advice and referral centres. And when the café is too busy for a confidential chat, there is always the office at the back.

Professor Michael Lukas Moeller of Frankfurt University Hospital's department of psycho-social medicine would be most reluctant to dispense with his self-help groups.

He works with a discussion group of psychotherapists and another consisting of members of his staff.

"They enable me both to see myself more clearly and to reconstruct my life more effectively," he says in an article on the self-help scene in *Das Parlament*, the Bonn weekly, entitled "Infectious Health of Epidemic Proportions."

"They seem to me to be suitable and helpful for politicians," Professor Moeller says about his discussion groups.

"They could shed light on the politician's job and his enormous workload and help to reorganise them where necessary. I feel this need transcends political parties."

So wherever one looks, self-help is on the advance, busy changing our lives.

It is a worldwide trend that would surely amaze Bill and Bob, two ex-GIs and "hopeless" alcoholics who met in Ohio in 1935 and discussed their problems.

As they talked they forgot about drinking, having discovered something most important: they shared a problem and were no longer on their own.

They were the founders of Alcoholics Anonymous and the nucleus of the modern self-help movement.

Barbara Frahdsen

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 23 July 1988)

■ HORIZONS

Task force for Third World projects celebrates its first five years

NÜRNBERGER Nachrichten

SES, the service which sends professionals and tradesmen of retirement age all over the Third World to help with special projects, has been going for five years.

Hans Gerstacker is a 70-year-old from Nuremberg who has worked a great deal abroad over the past 20 years, some with SES, was invited to the SES celebrations in Bonn, but he declined.

"To go to Bonn for a two-hour party and have to pay your own fare. Not likely," he said. He has had to pay a lot out of his own pocket towards his work abroad.

But that doesn't mean he has anything against the organisation. On the contrary: "I know my way around development aid and SES personnel are the best. They are experts and idealists who can tackle anything."

He has worked in the Third World both for the Federal Republic and for the United Nations. He has been to China twice, each time for three months, as an SES expert.

Erwin Schwab, 65, also comes from Nuremberg. He has also had a lot of experience working for the UN. But it took just nine weeks in the Cameroun working for SES to make him an enthusiastic supporter of the SES idea.

Schwab is a foundry expert. "The SES is ideal, from the personal point of view and as an idea," he said.

SES, officially designated as an "honorary service from German industry," was established five years ago under the patronage of the Standing Conference of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Bonn Economic Cooperation Ministry. The Ministry is no longer involved.

The spiritual father of the organisation was American President John F. Kennedy who, in the early 1960s, proposed that the experience of older experts should be used for development aid.

Bureaucrats are not wanted. People with practical experience are. The ideal workers are those who have learned their trade from the bottom up.

Over the past five years SES personnel have been sent out on 450 tasks abroad, to Africa, Asia, Latin America and to the problem regions of Europe. They are only paid pocket money.

Gerstacker and Schwab are both much taken with the SES idea. The one because he was convinced that he could be of use, even after he had retired from active development aid work in the Third World.

The other because he was interested, "in seeing things get moving, where things can be developed." And also because it was boring to be at home after having been sent out to 41 missions abroad by his Nuremberg firm.

Gerstacker has been to Taiwan several times. He was delighted by the people there and has also been able to get to know the people of the People's Republic of China. SES gave him the opportunity to do so.

Gerstacker is a qualified foreman and a foundry expert. He went to Wuhan for the first time in 1985. Small diesel engines for mini-tractors were produced there. Production was low and the quality was going downhill. The factory's organisation did not work properly.

Gerstacker and five other German experts quickly got to the root of the problem, but it was a tough task.

Gerstacker said that it was impossible to apply German management and German standards to the Chinese. "At the beginning there was indeed a lot of mistrust of us foreigners," he said.

But some things worked like magic. "The Chinese took note of the fact that we knew what we were doing and that we were always on hand in the factory's three-shift operations."

Werner Gerich was a member of the team in China. His word carried weight and "no-one was offended when his interpreter translated some of his bad language word-for-word." Gerich is now an honorary citizen of Wuhan.

Gerstacker was back in the engine factory again a year later and was able to see for himself how successful the SES work had been.

The factory is now under Chinese management and is a high-volume producer of quality engines in cooperation with many SES experts.

Schwab was not able to report quite so much success. But then his problems were different. He was confronted with quite different conditions when, early this year, he arrived in Bamenda, northern Cameroun.

An African had built a foundry there, the fourth in this location, mainly to produce planting equipment, wheelbarrows and maize mills.

Schwab said: "But the only equipment there was an electric furnace, nothing else." There was no sand preparation, no crane equipment, no moulds.

In conjunction with the owner, Schwab first drew up a production plan.

Most of the items had to be purchased from industrialised countries. Schwab made the contacts in Germany but insisted that the firm itself place the orders.

When everything has been delivered he will return to Bamenda, "so that we can build up the foundry."

This "we" indicates that Schwab, the only white man on the spot, identifies himself with the factory.

He said: "Yes, that's my way of doing things. If you are not completely involved then it's better that you stay at home for a comfortable life."

It is certainly not comfortable in Wuhan, Bamenda or anywhere else where SES personnel work.

Gerstacker was offered some interesting trips in the little free time he had in Wuhan: a trip to Peking, a 1,000 kilometres away, for instance.

He is also proud of the fact that he has been able to make new friends there.

Schwab, on the other hand, lived in a hotel room without air-conditioning. His time was taken up outside the factory with planning and reading English "lightweight crime novels".

He discovered that unlike Asians, Af-

Continued on page 15

Blind cleric shows African blind the way to a straight furrow

Ploughs are piled up in Pastor Bodo Lüdtke's garage. They all look alike to those who know nothing about agriculture.

Two iron wheels are linked by an axle. There is an attachment to yoke up the animal that pulls the plough, and a hook on which the ploughshare is fixed.

Pastor Lüdtke feels his way from the wheels to the iron parts. Suddenly he clasps a metal bar. "This is it," he says.

Bodo Lüdtke is 66 and blind. He is the parish minister at Warberg, near Königslutter.

He holds an old plough that would qualify in this country as a museum piece. Ploughs that are drawn by animals disappeared from fully-mechanised German agriculture a long time ago.

But it is not Pastor Lüdtke's intention to set up a collection of old agricultural equipment in his garage. He wants nothing less than to revolutionise the laborious and ineffective way the land is worked in Africa.

He hopes to recruit the many blind people who, in many parts of Africa, make up an incredible 25 per cent of the population.

He comes from West Prussia, where he was trained in agriculture. He was wounded in the war. The wound led his going blind.

He began studying theology because he didn't want to spend the rest of his life weaving mats.

With the aid of his wife, he completed his studies in record time and came to the Warberg parish, where he is still active.

But he never lost his interest in agriculture. He still works a piece of land, helped by two Haflingers, small mountain horses.

Magazine articles about the lot of blind people in developing countries gave him the idea of trying to help them.

In Africa blind people are regarded as just useless mouths to feed. In African society, where the law of survival of the fittest prevails more than anywhere else, they are pitilessly left to the mercy of the world around them, at best to the care of their families.

Pastor Lüdtke developed a plan to construct equipment which would make it possible for them to work the land and provide themselves with food.

He found helpers, mainly in the training workshops of the Teutloff School in Königslutter. According to his instructions the students there welded together simple agricultural implements, which could be constructed afterwards in an African village.

The church in Brunswick and the Christoffel Mission for the Blind supported his plan with an official contract and with a little cash. But he paid the lion's share from his own pocket.

The results so far have even surprised Pastor Lüdtke.

In the Garango Province of Burkina Faso, (which used to be called Upper Volta) in West Africa, a small factory is building his ploughs in large numbers and selling them to farmers.

One of the project helpers explains to the Africans the strange piece of



More rewarding than weaving mats . . . Pastor Lüdtke still works the land. (Photo: Private)

equipment which is drawn by an animal. The farmers in the "Land of the Incorruptibles," which is what Burkina Faso means, worked the land for centuries with the short-handled hoe.

They would never have thought of working the land with a ploughshare if they had not seen how skilfully the blind people from their villages were able to use the equipment. Of course the draught ox has to be led by a ploughman.

Lüdtke said proudly: "I have here an institution that is unique in the world. Who pays attention in a big way to blind people in developing countries?"

He himself can do no more than send out a prototype for construction on the spot and give agricultural advisers training courses in how to deal with blind people in foreign countries.

He has already trained some tropical agriculturalists, but many more are needed.

He said: "Blind people do what is explained to them. People with sight cling to tradition. They are often wary of things new."

The "things new" which Lüdtke wants to popularise in Africa are rather a reversion to agricultural methods that have been handed down to us.

Young development aid workers do not know, naturally, how to make a yoke for a draught ox, or how to yoke a donkey to a cart so that the shafts do not rub against the animal's flanks.

Lüdtke's equipment for the blind has found a use in Tunisia and Ghana; but not enough to meet the enormous need in Africa according to the enterprising pastor.

He said: "There is not enough profit in this for industry, which is why no-one pushes ahead with it. The equipment is so foolproof that any tradesman with some skill could construct the same thing."

It is enough for him that a blind person can be integrated into gainful employment in the locality through these implements.

"Then he can find a wife," nodding towards his own wife, who studied with him, read books to him, who works out his sermons for him and without whom, despite all his energy and flair, he would be quite helpless.

Hans-Anton Papendieck

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 14 July 1988)

■ FRONTIERS

Open skies: airlines now train women as pilots



Pilot training for the bigger German airlines used to be exclusively a male affair. But that changed in 1986.

Lufthansa pilots are trained at an air school in Phoenix, Arizona. There are 170 being trained there including nine women.

Some smaller airlines already for some time have been using women pilots, but for the first time this (northern) summer, Lufthansa are putting two women co-pilots into the air.

The school in Phoenix is headed by Willy Kuhweide, a Lufthansa pilot who is a former European, World and Olympic champion sailor. In 1986, he gave up competitive sailing after 28 years and in April last year went to run the school.

Lufthansa first accepted applications from women two years ago. A wing for women was added to the living accommodation. But that was the only change, says Kuhweide. The training remained the same. Pupils are trained over two years in five stages. They go between Bremen and Phoenix. Bremen is where the theory is done and Phoenix the practical.

The theory includes aviation law, flight control procedure, radio procedure, meteorology, engineering and navigation. Over the two years, trainee pilots earn six separate licences. Two are private-aircraft licence and airliner.

They put in about 200 flying hours in the single-engined Beech Bonanza and the two-engined Beech Baron. On top of that are another 90 hours in a flight simulator.

Why do they go to Phoenix? Kuhweide says the airspace gets little bad weather; there are 330 days of sunshine a year.

One of the female trainees is 22-year-old Anja Dörner, who comes from Bad Vilbel, near Frankfurt. The day in Phoenix gets off to an early start: at 6 am she meets her teacher for the briefing, when the day's activities are discussed. Then they get into an aircraft, two pupils to every instructor. (The flight instructors are American. Lufthansa has a contract with the American Airline Training Centre in Phoenix).

They fly up to five hours a day. In the afternoon, it's swotting up on the theory. In the evening, flight plans for the next day are worked out. Frau Dörner wryly remarks that that the schedule doesn't leave much time for nightlife.

She doesn't get paid during training. Instead, she, like the others runs up a debt of 22,000 marks which must be repaid when she starts work as a co-pilot. That doesn't worry her. She has wanted to be a pilot since childhood. She left school and studied two semesters of mathematics at university before applying to Lufthansa. At the time, no women had been accepted by ther airline.

"But they couldn't do any more than say 'no'." In November 1986, she was invited to a day-long test in Hamburg. The she sat and passed a week-long test and a medical.

The selection process is hard. Kuhweide says that only between five and ten per cent of those who get as far as the first interview and short test make it. It has to be established early if a candidate is the sort of person capable of standing the exertion and stress of life on the flight deck.

In training, stress situations are practised. Sun, noise and turbulence all belong to the stress-causing factors which a pilot must cope with. So are emergencies when, for example, an engine stops or instruments fail.

Kuhweide says the first 60 hours in an aircraft are the crucial ones. "That's when we see if a person is made of the stuff to become a pilot or not."

A colleague of Frau Dörner had to end his training in the last year after he landed after forgetting to lower the undercarriage and going through a belly landing.

Frau Dörner has got through her "moment of truth". But did she still have nervous moments thinking about her first flight completely in charge? "No. I think that I will be fully prepared for every eventuality."

Kuhweide agrees. He says that about 28,500 flight hours a year are put in by the intakes at Phoenix. The theoretical work is equivalent to a double course of university study. "Whoever gets through all that is qualified, all right."

After graduating, the pilots are trained for specific aircraft, at first short- and medium-haul aircraft. After 12 years, they have the chance to become a flight captain.

Frau Dörner thinks that being a pilot does not rule out a family life with children. She says that depends on how it is organised.

The men in Phoenix have accepted their female colleagues. Frau Dörner says the occasional stupid remark is thrown at her, but that doesn't worry her.

A pioneer at Lufthansa . . . Anja Dörner. (Photo: Frank Finkensiep)

Kuhweide says the main problem for women is not on the course, but on the way passengers react when they hear a female voice from the cockpit. "That is something they will just have to get used to."

And what do Frau Dörner's family think about her choice of career? "Oh, they're all enthusiastic." She gets special support from her boyfriend. No wonder. He is a newly graduated Lufthansa pilot. She met him during her first term in Phoenix.

Ute Schwarzwald

(Nordwest Zeitung, Oldenburg, 8 August 1988)

Contin[illegible]

ricans are not so quick to make friends.

Was that the dark side of an otherwise pleasant experience? Schwab said:

"No, gratitude and the satisfaction of the people was shown in the end in ways other than avowals of friendship." As Gerstacker said, SES experts are idealists.

But idealism is not enough. A little experience abroad, apart from holiday trips, would be very helpful for people interested in joining SES.

Many experts who have never learned how to live with people from other cultures, work with them and get on with them, find it difficult to take on fresh activities as a development aid worker in retirement.

Herbert Fuehr

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 29 July 1988)

A girl grows up and a dream comes true

Ute Hannemann, 24, first went to sea as a child with her sea-captain father. She liked it.

Today she goes to sea in her own right as an officer. The chances are that, one day, she will become a captain.

Frau Hannemann has graduated in navigation from Bremen University. She completed her degree with a thesis on liquid chemicals as a freight.

Times have changed on the oceans as in most other areas, and women officers are no longer a rarity. So the give and take of the training and the job are accepted. It meaned that during her training, she faced little difficulty in, for example, giving out the orders for a tying-up manoeuvre.

She has also to take the other side of the coin, a blasting from her male superior when she walked minus steel helmet in an area where a loading crane was working.

She displays a natural aptitude for her career, which must be put down to those early days on the high seas with her father.

After she left school with her *Abitur*, she decided to study navigation. But first was the practical side — going to [illegible] simple as she had imagined.

She twice applied to large shipping companies for a place as an "officer applicant" but, despite the increasing number of women on the bridges of the vessels of the world, they both rejected her on the grounds that "there are not the necessary sanitary facilities for women applicants."

Then her luck changed. She applied to German Shell. After a security course, she was, together with nine other officer applicants, in 1984 taken on board a 300,000 tonne tanker, the Liotina, which the company uses as a training ship.

Under the eye of a boatswain, she learned such things as knotting and splicing. About a third of Shell's officer training intake are women.



Blondes prefer bulk carriers . . . Ute Hannemann. (Photo: Jochen Stoss)

[illegible] Hannemann sailed [illegible] the Gulf on the Liotina, although in those days, it was peaceful there, it's a little precarious: "We sailed to Kharg Island. The ship had to be completely in darkness. Even torches had to be weak."

But she wasn't afraid because, "before that, we had to go on mine watch in the Red Sea."

Otherwise she liked being on the huge tanker — and even more when it put into Singapore and went into dock for three weeks, which gave her the chance for plenty of shore leave.

After six months Frau Hannemann was posted as assistant officer on the 80,000 BRT tanker Diala. She was assigned to the First Officer under whose instruction she learned about the workings of the ship.

For five months, she learned about work on the bridge, loading methods, administration, the ships technology, security. She also spent six weeks in the engine-room.

Then she was transferred to a bulk carrier, the Ensis, as assistant officer. This is the sort of ship she would like to stay on. A bulk carrier, for one, spends longer in port loading its different commodities than a container ship.

Frau Hannemann says: "Sometimes the loading hosepiping is so small that it takes a long time before the cargo is on board — leaving more time for shore leave."

Now Frau Hannemann has completed her degree, she hopes that her good final examination results will help her get a job as a second or third officer.

She must spend a certain time at sea before she gets a certificate of competency, the next step on the way to becoming a captain.

She hopes it will be a tanker or bulk carrier. The thought of a passenger ship she regards, strangely enough, with almost horror.

"A big passenger ship? What, runing around all day in tinsel and uniform? When there is no loading to do? I'd rather crawl through a dirty tank."

She sees little problem about being a woman on board. She says that during her training, she was perhaps a little more watched at times to see if she, as a woman, did everything properly. But other problems that she thought, on land, might exist didn't.

She relates with a grin one episode on board the Ensis one day: "I had just put my clothes and some from the First Officer in the washing machine. The captain turned up at that moment and asked, embarrassed, if I could put his work uniform in the machine as well. It was so embarrassing for him that he felt he had first to ask me if that was the sort of request he could even put to me."

Carsten Ellmers

(Bremer Nachrichten, 13 July 1988)